

Town census should be mailed to Town Clerk

PALMER – The 2020 Town of Palmer Census forms were mailed. Please return them to the Town Clerk’s office within 10 days. Any residents with questions about the form or who did not receive a census, should please call the Town Clerk’s office at 413-283-2608.

Dog licenses for 2020 are now available at the Town Clerk’s office. While there, residents should Also, check their voter registration for the upcoming 2020 elections.

Real estate tax bills due Feb. 3

MONSON – Monson’s second-quarter real estate and personal property tax bills are due and payable on Monday, Feb. 3. Payments can be made online at www.monson-ma.gov or by mail using the return addressed envelope with each bill. There is a payment drop-off box located to the right of the main entrance to the Town Office Building on Main Street. This box is checked Monday through Friday, with payments processed daily. The Tax Office is also open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Questions on payments or payment arrangements call 413-267-4100, ext. 6. Questions on abatements or exemptions contact the Board of Assessors’ Office at 413-2674100, ext.7.

Monson voter registration for Presidential Primary

MONSON – Voter registration for the Presidential Primary Election will be held on

Wednesday Feb. 12, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., at the Monson Town Clerk’s Office located at the Town Office Building 110 Main Street.

This is the last day to register to vote or change party enrollment prior to the Presidential Primary election, which will be held on Tuesday March 3, at Memorial Hall located at 198 Main St.

Residents may also register to vote by mail-in registration, in person Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Town Clerk’s office or online at: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/OVR>.

Applications must be postmarked no later than Feb. 12.

Absentee ballots are now available in the Town Clerk’s office. The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot application is 12 p.m. on March 2.

Early voting will take place in the Town Clerk’s office prior to the Presidential Primary election from Feb.24-28 during the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. There are no weekend hours for early voting prior to this election.

For questions, please contact the Monson Town Clerk’s office at 413-267-4115, online at www.monson-ma.gov, or email townclerk@monson-ma.gov.

Friends of the Monson Public Library bake sale, Feb. 11

MONSON – The Friends of the Monson Free Library bake sale on Tuesday, Feb. 11, at 10:30 a.m. and will go until sold out. Members of the Friends will bake many goodies featuring scones, pies, cookies, cakes and special Valentine treats. Proceeds from the sale will benefit programs at the library including story hours, museum passes, and a multitude of activities. Everyone is invited to indulge their sweet tooth, and support the Friends.

Brimfield Senior Center February events

BRIMFIELD – The Brimfield Senior Center, at the 1st Congregational Church, at 20 Main St., has a number of February events coming up.

On Tuesdays there is a new “Trivia Tuesday” at 11:30 a.m. Join other seniors for lunch and Tuesday Trivia! Come on in for lunch and test your trivia knowledge. Grand prize is a \$5 scratch ticket. Bring a sharp brain and head on down for food, fun, and a chance at both fame and fortune. The meals have been greatly improved so it’s a great opportunity to give it a try for those who haven’t been to the center recently. There is a \$2 suggested donation for lunch. Please call before 11 a.m. on Mondays to reserve a lunch. The center can be reached at 413-245-7253.

On Thursday, Feb. 20, at 11:30 a.m., Lunch & Learn with Eva Pittsinger, Senior Center Director and Outreach Specialist.

Ever wonder what seniors or a family member might be eligible for? She will go over guidelines and procedures for programs and services. Lunch is available for a suggested donation of \$2, but reservations must be made before Monday, Feb. 19, at 11 a.m. The menu will be roast pork, seasoned cauliflower, yellow rice, whole wheat roll and fresh fruit.

On Friday, Feb. 21, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Italian Fest is back. Join the center for a fabulous spread starting with an appetizer of balsamic bruschetta with tomato and garlic. The main course will be a combination plate of spinach and cheese stuffed shells with meatballs, pasta, Italian bread, salad and birthday cake. February birthdays will be celebrated. Please reserve a seat prior to Tuesday, Feb. 18. There is a \$5 suggested donation for this party. The center can be reached at 413-245-7253.



Turley Publications courtesy photo

Rocco, a pit bull mix with neurological issues, needs a forever home. He is at Second Chance's East Brookfield adoption center.

Special needs dog needs special owner

EAST BROOKFIELD – Rocco came to Second Chance Animal Services last summer. He was emaciated and initially presented as a clumsy young dog. When Second Chance veterinarians examined him, it was clear that something more was going on.

Rocco is neurologic. He stumbles and falls often, and he has decreased feeling in his limbs. Second Chance sent him to a neurologist who believes that he has something going on in his brain. At this time, it does not appear to be progressive which is good for Rocco’s sake because he is a very happy dog.

Dr. Jackie Celmer, a Second Chance veterinarian charged with overseeing shelter pets, is hoping Rocco will soon find a home. “

He will need a home that understands his special needs,” she said. “He will have

State launches educational savings program for newborns

BOSTON – The state’s first post-high school education savings account program is now underway, available to every new child born or adopted in the Bay State.

State Rep. Brian Ashe, D-Longmeadow, and Treasurer Deborah Goldberg announced the BabySteps Savings Program, available through the Office of Economic Empowerment, which provides a free \$50 seed deposit when a family member opens a college or vocational savings account through the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority,

or MEFA.

“With the rising cost of post-secondary education, the opportunity to receive a college or vocational degree is uncertain for many of our kids,” Goldberg said. “BabySteps will encourage families to save and invest earlier for their children’s higher education.”

All new parents or guardians will have one year after their child has been born or adopted to open a U.Fund 529 college savings account in order to receive the \$50 deposit. The deposit will be transferred directly into the child’s U.Fund account through MEFA and financed by the Treasurer’s Economic Empowerment Trust Fund with support from private donors.

The program builds upon Goldberg’s

Where is it!



Hint: This week's is Monson and is related to construction.

Last week's was the bell tower at Divine Mercy Parish in Three Rivers.

The answer to this week's "Where is it?" will run in next week's edition, along with a new trivia photo for you to consider.

DEADLINE

The Journal Register has changed its firm deadline for public submissions to Mondays. To get your submission in for that week's edition, email Editor at bcoulter@turley.com or call the office at 413-283-8393 by noon on Mondays. We appreciate the cooperation of our readers.

Top Floor Learning holds monthly game nights

PALMER – Top Floor Learning will hold monthly game nights on Feb. 11, March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9, July 14, Aug. 11, Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 17 and Dec. 8, from 6 to 7:45 p.m., at the Palmer Public Library. There is no fee and no registration is required. Participants must be 16 or older, unless accompanied by an adult. Board games and card games are provided or bring your own Scrabble, cribbage, Monopoly, Uno, chess, checkers, Yahtzee, bridge, Skipbo, Crazy 8s, Hearts, Dominos or other games.

Anyone with questions is encouraged to call 413-283–2329, or email palewis19@yahoo.com.

Corrections

The Journal Register will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2 or 3. To request a correction, send information to Editor at bcoulter@turley.com, or call 283-8393, extension 236. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

RIGHT OF WAY MAINTENANCE

As required by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 132B, National Grid (New England Power and/or Massachusetts Electric Company) hereby gives notice that it intends to selectively apply herbicides along specific transmission line rights-of-way in 2020.

The selective use of herbicides to manage vegetation along rights-of-way is done within the context of an Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) program consisting of mechanical, chemical, natural and cultural components. In right-of-way vegetation management the pest or target is vegetation (primarily tall growing) that will cause outages and safety issues. National Grid's IVM program encourages natural controls by promoting low growing plant communities that resist invasion by target vegetation. The selective use of herbicides and mechanical controls are the direct techniques used to control target vegetation and help establish and maintain natural controls.

Rodeo, and possibly one of the following herbicides, Arsenal or Arsenal Powerline, will be applied directly to the surface of stumps immediately after target vegetation is cut (Cut Stump Treatment). Garlon 4 or Garlon 4 Ultra will be applied selectively to the stems of target vegetation using hand-held equipment (Basal Treatment and Dormant stem treatment). Krenite S or Rodeo, mixed with Escort XP, and one of the following herbicides, Arsenal or Arsenal Powerline, or Milestone will be applied selectively to the foliage of target vegetation using hand-held equipment (Foliar Treatment). Applications shall not commence more than ten days before nor conclude more than ten days after the following treatment periods. The herbicide mixes and additional information about rights of way management in Massachusetts can be found here: <https://www.mass.gov/rights-of-way-vegetation-management>

Municipalities that have rights-of-way scheduled for herbicide treatments in 2020:

Monson, Palmer

Municipalities that have rights-of-way that were treated in 2019 but may require some touch-up work in 2020:

Monson, Palmer

Treatment Periods		
January 27, 2020 – May 29, 2020	May 29, 2020 - Oct 16, 2020	Oct 16, 2020 – Dec 31, 2020
CST	Foliar	CST
Basal	CST	Basal
Dormant Stem	Basal	Dormant Stem
	Cut stubble	

Further information may be requested by contacting (during business hours, Mon-Fri from 8:00 am-4:00 pm):
Mariclaire Rigby, National Grid, 939 Southbridge Street, Worcester, MA 01610.
Telephone: (508) 860-6282 or email: mariclaire.rigby@nationalgrid.com

Raffle drawing for Irish Cultural Center Ireland tour

WEST SPRINGFIELD – The Irish Cultural Center of Western New England is holding a raffle drawing to celebrate Saint Brigid’s Day and the start of the Celtic spring. The first prize is an all-expenses paid trip for two people on a group tour to Ireland, hosted by the ICC. The winner may select their choice of several tours - early spring, September or October 2020, or May 2021. The prize is transferable to another party. The second prize is a 14 carat gold Saint Brigid’s Cross necklace crafted by Brian de Staic Jewellers of Dingle, Ireland.

The drawing will take place Feb. 1 at the ICC’s Trinity Pub, 429 Morgan Road, West Springfield. The event will begin at 6 p.m., with a welcome and remarks from



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Viewpoints

Don't leave furry friends in the cold

While Mother Nature has surely been wishy-washy with the weather this winter, it's imperative we don't forget about our four-legged furry friends when it comes to their seasonal needs.

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency has offered tips to help pet owners ensure they are being responsible caregivers during these chilly winter months in New England.

First, do not leave your pet outdoors when temperatures drop below freezing. You wouldn't want to be out there — why would the dog?

They need outdoor exercise, but take care not to keep them outdoors for lengthy periods of time during very cold weather. You may have a "cold-weather" breed of dog, but each pet is an individual, and those that live their lives mostly indoors need time to adapt to cold temperatures by building up a thicker coat and toughening their footpads for ice and snow.

Short-coated dogs may feel more comfortable wearing a sweater during walks.

Many dogs need boots in cold weather, regardless of their coat length. If your dog frequently lifts up its paws, whines or stops during walks, it may be demonstrating its feet are uncomfortably cold.

Boots can help protect from another winter hazard: road salt. If your pet walks on salted or chemically treated areas, be sure to wash its paws after your walk. Gently rub the bottom of the feet to remove these irritants as soon as your dog is off the road.

Other big dangers of the winter months are antifreeze and de-icing chemicals. Many types of antifreeze have a sweet taste that can attract animals, but if they ingest the chemical it may prove to be fatal. Always store antifreeze out of reach and clean up spills.

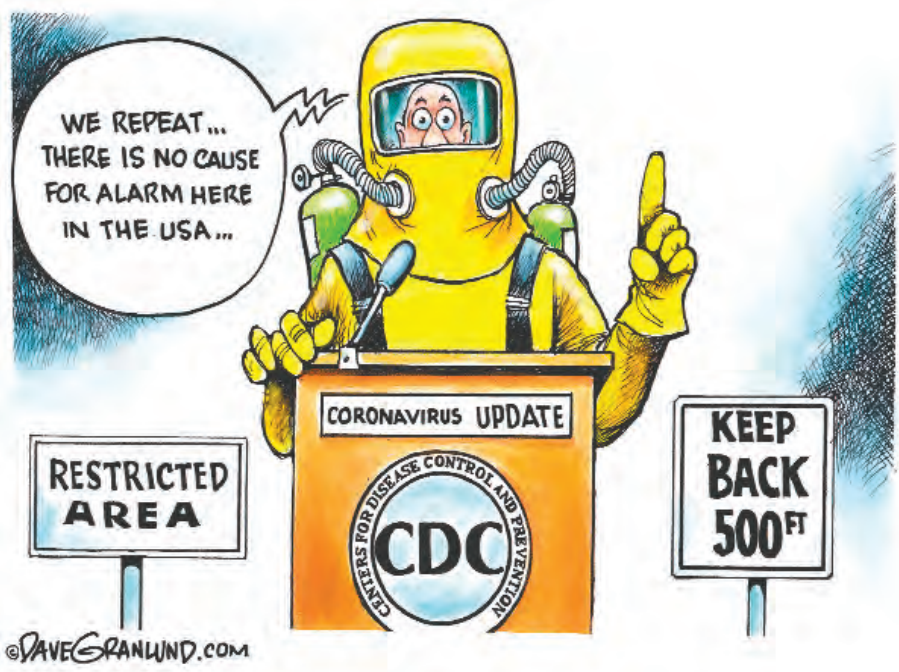
Speaking of cars, if you park outdoors, be sure to make sure there are no animals seeking warmth and shelter inside your car engine. Warm automobile engines are dangerous for cats and small wildlife. To avoid injuring hiding animals, bang on your car's hood to scare them off before starting your engine.

Keep pets on a leash when walking near suspected frozen bodies of water like lakes or ponds. The ice may not be sturdy enough to support its weight. If a pet falls through the ice, do not attempt to rescue it yourself; call 911 or go for help.

If your pet does stay outside during the winter months, be mindful of wind-chill. Outdoor dogs need a dry, draft-free doghouse that is large enough to allow it to both sit and lie down comfortably, but small enough to retain body heat.

The floor should be elevated a few inches off the ground and covered with cedar shavings or straw. The entrance of the doghouse should be turned to face away from prevailing winds, and the entrance should be covered with a flap of heavy waterproof fabric or heavy plastic.

But the best place for them is really inside with you, enjoying the warmth of the house.



Garden with the seasons for an unbeatable display, part one

How often have you visited an outdoor museum, amusement park or resort and felt inspired by the gardens or container plantings used to adorn the property? Chances are you may have even used an especially delightful display as a backdrop for a family photo or two. Tourist attractions such as these put "their best foot forward" each season of the year to awe their customers with spectacular combinations of unique plants, so that no matter when the visit is planned, the guest leaves with the feeling something special was done in their honor.

We can treat our home gardens in a similar fashion. Why not? Certainly we deserve to have exceptional plantings, for our own enjoyment and for the "wow-factor" they will elicit from our friends. So instead of utilizing border plantings that provide only glimpses of color in the spring, summer and fall, devote entire beds to the showiest plants available for the time of year and change them with the seasons.

These types of gardens don't have to be very large, but they do have to be situated for optimal effect. Think "location, location, location!" If you have a long driveway, consider placing a "welcome garden" just as you turn down the path. Since it will be viewed from a distance, and from a single vantage point, make the bed more wide than narrow, and raise the height of the soil in the back of the bed a bit for a multidimensional appearance. Utilize large, bold flowers, bright colors and strong foliage forms; these will capture

the eye en route.

Which door do you or guests normally use to enter and exit the house? Plant a small garden nearby, one that can be admired up close, each time you pass by it. Here, the intricacies of color and form can be fully appreciated, whereas in the garden out front they would be lost. Experiment with a variety of flower and foliage shapes and color schemes. Don't be afraid to use delicate or small flowers, or those that are mottled or two-tone. Likewise, variegated and cut-leaf foliage can make for interesting inspection if properly paired with surrounding plants. Similar beds or container plantings can be planned for patio or pool-side, or for other areas within the landscape that might be suitable for entertaining. Simply tailor the gardens to the timeframe in which these locations are used most often, and choose your plants accordingly.

Next week we will go through each season: spring, summer and fall in preparation for a fantastic display. With just a little forethought you can have a garden that mimics those of your favorite destination.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

We took benefits early; can we get more now?

By Russell Gloor
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: My birth year is 1947. My wife's is 1950. We both took our Social Security years ago at age 62 due to health concerns because we questioned if we would live to age 78 to equalize the extra payout if we would have waited to age 66. Taking early at 62 may have been a mistake and I am wondering if there are any options available to maximize my and/or my wife's monthly payment with a restricted application or any other available options? My gross monthly is \$946.60, and my wife's is \$543.60 before the deduction for Medicare. Together our gross monthly is about equal to the per person individual average monthly payment of \$1,479. Signed: Regretful we took SS early.

Dear Regretful: I'm afraid the options for either you or your wife increasing your benefit at this point are extremely limited. You cannot file the restricted application you mentioned because that can only be done by someone applying for the first time (and who was born before 1/2/1954), and only by someone who has not yet reached age 70. Neither can you suspend your benefits to earn delayed retirement credits because DRCs are only earned up to age 70. Your wife has a very small window until she reaches 70 in March during which she could suspend her benefits, and by doing so immediately she could perhaps earn, at most, an additional 1 percent in DRCs (about \$5 more per month). That leaves only two other things which could increase your benefits: 1) Annual Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) granted each year depending upon inflation, and 2) returning to work and having substantial current earnings which may replace the earnings in a lower-earning year in your lifetime work record (Social Security uses the highest earning 35 years over your lifetime to compute your benefit amount).

If you have some years in that 35-year history with no or very low earnings, working now could replace one or more of those years. I have no way of determining whether that is a possibility; you would need to get your lifetime earnings record from Social Security and see if that is possible by examining your earnings for each year over your lifetime. But remember, all early years of earnings are adjusted for inflation, so for example, \$10,000 earned in 1990 would be equal to about \$25,000 in today's dollars, and you'd need to earn more than the higher amount to have any effect on your benefit.

I wish I had better news for you, but the unfortunate reality is that once someone claims their Social Security benefits, the amount is quite fixed. Although it's possible to withdraw an application within 12 months of initial filing, and it's also possible to suspend benefits once FRA is reached, neither of those is available to you. And your wife only has a very short window to suspend her benefits, which will reach maximum when she reaches 70 in March. So, except for the COLA increases and returning to work options I've discussed above, I'm afraid you have no other opportunity to increase your Social Security benefit amounts.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisior@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

Election letters to the editor welcome

The *Journal Register* welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Journal Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to dfarmer@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call editor Douglas Farmer at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact Lisa Marulli, 413-283-8393 or lmarrulli@turley.com, about paid advertising in The Journal Register.

Letters to the editor policy

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must confirm authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

Please send opinions to:
**The Journal Register
Letter to the Editor
24 Water St.,
Palmer MA 01069,
or by e-mail to:
dfarmer@turley.com**

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

HISTORICAL WILBRAHAM

Crossing the river to Ludlow sometimes could be dangerous

A unique history lies beneath Putts Bridge

By Charles F. Bennett
Times Editor Emeritus

We are going to spend some time with our friends in Indian Orchard and Ludlow in this week's column telling the tale of the bridge crossing to Ludlow called Putt's Bridge and the waterfalls below it, The Falls at Wallamanumps (pronounced like it sounds), that goes back to the times of local Native Americans.

And, we will tell the tale of the oldest railroad chartered in New England, going back to 1849.

Railroads

Monson historian Patrick Duquette is well known to Wilbraham history buffs having given talks at an Old Meeting House Museum open house in the last year and a half. Patrick sent me a note, knowing I was working on a column about Wilbraham railroads. (see the Dec. 26 Times front page "Historical Wilbraham – Railroads made a profound impact on the town.")

Patrick had come across information about the very first railroad chartered in New England and sent me a message about its historic background. The Indian Orchard Railroad was incorporated in 1849. The mile-long track is of more importance out of proportion to its size. It was built by the Indian Orchard Mills primarily to provide a freight outlet for the mills. It was very likely the first company holding a bona fide railroad charter to operate a passenger horsecar service anywhere in New England, it was claimed.

The Indian Orchard Railroad was finished in the early 1850s. It connect-



PHOTO COURTESY DIGITAL COMMONWEALTH

Putts Bridge from Indian Orchard to Ludlow in 1897 couldn't accommodate four lanes of traffic as it does today.

ed the main line of the Western Railroad that ran through North Wilbraham, with the mills along Pine Street and on the south bank of the Chicopee River in Indian Orchard. Northbound, the railroad freight cars, as well as the company's lone horsecar, coasted downhill by gravity southbound, and up the grade, they were hauled by horses. Later the Western Railroad was merged into the Boston & Albany line.

Putt's Bridge

You couldn't write about our neighbors, Indian Orchard and Ludlow, without mentioning Putt's Bridge. The bridge at Wallamanumps Falls on the Chicopee River divides Wilbraham and Ludlow, and then Indian Orchard and Ludlow at what was affectionately called "Tri-Town," where the three towns come together.

According to the Lost New En-



TIMES PHOTO BY CHARLES F. BENNETT

Putts Bridge today conveys heavy traffic from two sources, Indian Orchard and Wilbraham to Ludlow; and vice versa.

years, three additional spans would have to be constructed on the site.

Duquette told me that he believed that one or two of the previous bridges were toll bridges but he thought it wasn't very popular to charge people to travel over them and they eventually became free to use.

The 1822 bridge must have been stronger, because it lasted until 1897. (See the photograph accompanying this column.) By this point, though, the 75-year-old bridge was starting to show its age, and the next year it was replaced with a new iron bridge. However, the replacement didn't even last half as long as its predecessor before it was replaced by the current bridge, in 1930, which is still considered narrow by today's standards. Just look at the four lanes that squeeze together over the span on any given day, especially at rush hour.

Lost New England says, "Today, this concrete and steel bridge carries Route 21 across the river, and it still serves as the primary connection from Ludlow to Springfield. The 1897 version in the photo was at a substantially lower elevation than the current bridge.

Back approximately eight to 10 years ago, the present bridge had to undergo major repairs creating major traffic woes for Wilbraham residents near Weston and Acton streets and the Stony Hill Road-Pines School section of town.

I remember Wilbraham Town Engineer Ed Miga holding a meeting and explaining the situation for those residents and warning them: "People (motorists) are invading your town." Miga installed heavy traffic barriers trying to relieve the headaches all caused by the stalled traffic at Putt's Bridge. Eventually the bridge repairs were finished and things got back to

Please see **HISTORY**, page 6

The Journal Register

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Looking Back

Compiled by Bruce Coulter

25 YEARS AGO

FROM THE PAGES OF THE JOURNAL REGISTER THIS WEEK IN 1995 ...

Town officials seek aid to rebuild after Main Street fire. Affected businesses to file forms Monday

By Justin Doyle

PALMER - The damage has been done, the issue now a matter of rebuilding. A week after the Holbrook Building on Main Street burned to the ground, Palmer is looking to the state for aid to rebuild. After state and town officials returned from a meeting with the Executive Office of Communities and Development (EOCD) on Friday, Palmer has received an immediate response that the state is willing to try to help the businesses which were lost in the fire.

Palmer is hoping that the Holbrook Building fire will be declared a disaster area in order for the businesses, which were devastated by the fire, to be eligible for federal and state aid.

According to Larry Smith, the Palmer community development director, if the state declares the Holbrook Building a disaster area it will open up the door for several state and federal programs.

"Once we hear from the state, we will hold a meeting with different state agencies including the Small Business Administration (SBA), the Federal Emergency Management Association and the Farmers Home Administration," Smith said. "WE might be able to tap into four or five different programs."

The SBA has already begun to take action. According to Smith, Wade Butler, a representative for the SBA's regional office has promised to review the site of the Holbrook Building fire and speak with business owners.

"The SBA is sending a representative out to view the site and sit down with the property owners to the application process for funding the programs," Smith said.

Following requests by town representatives that the sight be viewed by the Governor's Office at the meeting with the EOCD the state responded.

On Tuesday, John Pappas, director of the Executive Department of the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, visited the remains of the Holbrook Building to assess the damage.

"I here to see (the site) and also request that tenants and owners file estimates of their losses with the town," Pappas said.

According to Beverly Lund, executive secretary for Palmer, the state must have a full account of the total

Businesses affected by the fire, before determining if the sight can be declared a disaster area.

Pappas left information and forms with Lund to be distributed to the small businesses which received damage due to the fire.

Lund said that forms are available at the Selectmen's office and requested that they be returned by Monday. Owners of businesses that were affected by the fire or suffered a loss should contact the selectmen's office at 283-2603 or Lund at her home at 283-4001 for forms.

Pappas said once the completed forms are turned in, he will be able to forward them to the Small Business Administration, who will make a determination of assistance within two weeks.

Representatives from Palmer brought the town's plight to the attention of the state last week when members of the Palmer Downtown Partnership (PDP) traveled to Boston to meet with the Executive Office of Communities and Development (EOCD). The meeting provided town officials with information as to the availability of state and federal funding programs for the tS- businesses that lost their offices in the Holbrook Building fire.

Town officials returned from the meeting with a feeling of hope, in terms of the possibility of receiving funding.

"We received a very positive response from the state in terms of the availability of state funding programs to help the small businesses that were destroyed in the fire," Smith said. "You don't often get a meeting with that many people from different state agencies."

Smith was joined in the meeting by PDP member Daniel Slowick and president Warren Thompson, who spoke to 12 members of the EOCD, including Mary Greendale, administrator of Community Services and Bruce Stebbins, executive secretary for the Economic Office.

State Sen. Robert D. Wetmore,



FROM THE PAGES OF THE PALMER JOURNAL THIS WEEK IN 1995: Finance Committee member and Bondsville resident Paul Burns introduces his son, Jarrad, 18-months, to seniors at the Palmer Senior Center on Monday afternoon. Burns was at the center with Jarrad, his other son, Adam, 3, and his wife, Wendy, to announce his intention to run for Palmer Selectman. (Photo by Tina Lak)



FROM THE PAGES OF THE PALMER JOURNAL THIS WEEK IN 1995: Taking a coffee break ... Members of the Monson Writers and Illustrators group enjoy a hit drink during intermission at the Monson Coffeehouse last Thursday night in Memorial Hall. Pictured left to right, Phyllis Hull, Nancy Bryant and Nancy Beauregard. (Photo by Joanne Gervais)



FROM THE PAGES OF THE JOURNAL REGISTER THIS WEEK IN 1970: The Rainbow Girls held their installation of officers at the Monson Masonic Hall. Officers shown from left to right: Joyce Outhuse, Charity, Carol Wright, Hope; Sharon Osborne, Worthly Advisor; Kathleen Hobson, Worthly Associate Advisor and Linda Dill, Faith.



FROM THE PAGES OF THE JOURNAL REGISTER THIS WEEK IN 1970: The St. Peter and Paul's Mothers Club will sponsor a Gay Fiesta Mardi Gras February 14. This is the 14th annual event. Show with decorations for the fiesta are left to right: Helen Grzywna, Eleanor Skowronek, Theresa Szwed, Sophy Gladkowski and Charlotte Kszepka.

D-Barre and Rep. Patrick Landers III, D-Palmer, also sat in on the meeting to help provide support for the Palmer area and stress the impact the fire had on the town.

At the meeting, Landers emphasized that the purpose of the meeting was to ensure that the state take into account the severity of the Holbrook Building fire.

"We wanted to make sure Palmer's-plight is heard at the very highest level of the state," Landers said. "We wanted to present that this was really a traumatic occurrence for the town and there is now a

call to arms for the town to build for the future."

Landers made a request to the Governor's Office that a representative view the site of the Holbrook Building fire which has been left in a pile of rubble and ash.

Mary Padula, secretary for

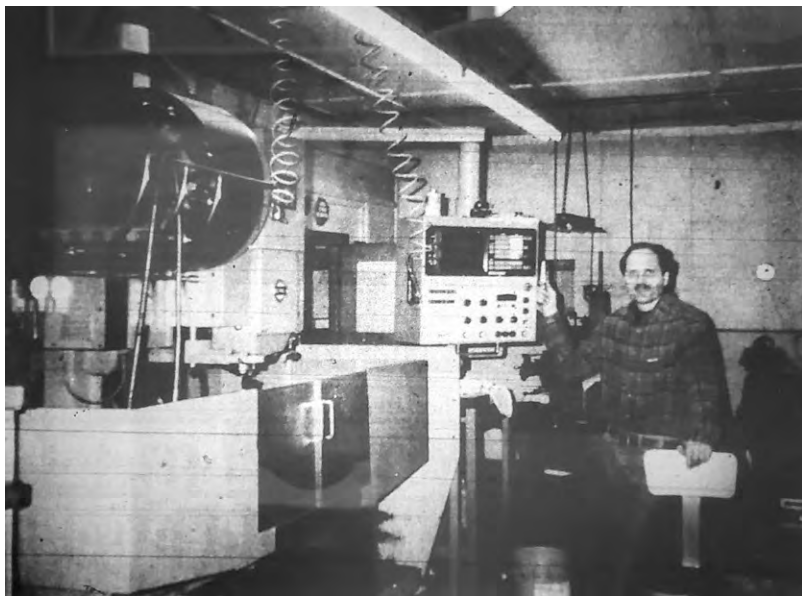
EOCD, has promised that she will review the site within the next two weeks. According to Larry Smith, Padula will be reviewing the site today (Thursday.)

Landers was impressed by the way in which the state received the town officials at the meeting.

"It is an indication that the state will do everything in their power to turn this thing around," he said. "It is essential to the central district that the state has a clear role in the rebuilding process, and that they do everything they can."

The meeting helped establish a set of three objectives for Palmer to work toward in terms of getting the businesses, which were forced out of the Holbrook Building by the fire to get back on their feet.

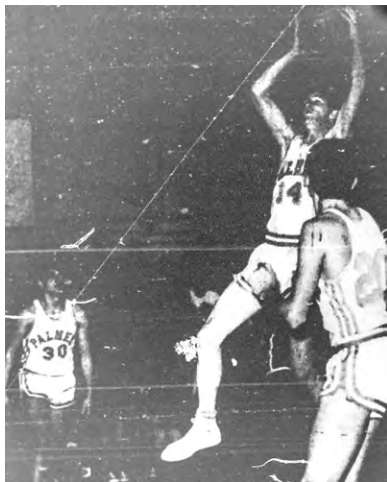
According to Landers, the short-term goal involves accessing funding programs, which will directly help the businesses relocate



FROM THE PAGES OF THE PALMER JOURNAL THIS WEEK IN 1995: Bill Bacyk, owner of Basic Precision on Boston Road, Palmer, shows the machines in his shop that he now uses to make parts for vending stands as well as special order and production parts. (Photo by Curt Reeser)



FROM THE PAGES OF THE JOURNAL REGISTER THIS WEEK IN 1995: Let's Dance ... Youths at a dance at the Second Congregational Church, 80 Pleasant St., Palmer, take a break from the dance floor last Friday nights and pose for a picture. Organizers estimated that about 200 youths from grades 6 through 8 attended the dance. (Photo by Joy Trombly)



FROM THE PAGES OF THE JOURNAL REGISTER THIS WEEK IN 1970: Palmer Basketball - Palmer this week beat Tantasqua by a score of 75 to 45. Michael Grimes, #14 is shown taking a rebound. #30 is Gerald Skaza, and #20 is Michael Russo. The game was played in the Palmer High School gym.

and "get up and running again." Landers stressed that it was essential that the business owners receive financial support from the state.

"The short-term goal is to get immediate funding for the owners of the 18 businesses that are going to need help with everything from paying mortgages to feeding their kids," Landers said.

The Massachusetts Office of Business Development and the Quabog Valley Business Assistance and Loan Program may have available funding to help the business owners who are now trying to pick up the pieces.

Wade Butler a representative for the SBA's regional office has promised to view the site of the Holbrook Building fire and speak with the business owners, according to Smith.

"The SBA is sending a representative out to view the sight and sit down with the property owners to start the application process for funding programs," Smith said.

The medium-term goal is to prevent the Holbrook Building fire from deteriorating business in the downtown area, Landers said.

"We have to make sure the fire doesn't have a devastating effect on the central district and the downtown doesn't lose business," Landers said. "The Holbrook Building is in a place where it needs, to be a cornerstone of the

downtown area."

The long-term goal for Palmer is to create a plan in order to rebuild the Holbrook Building.

"We need to put together a plan for the redevelopment of the Holbrook Building," Landers said. "Because of the location of the Holbrook building, I see no other solution but to rebuild on that spot."

Palmer business owner designs parts for vending stands

By Curt Reeser

PALMER— Bill Bacyk, owner of Basic Precision on Boston Road, Palmer, is not making as many aircraft parts as he used to these days, so he has switched to making cans.

Not the kind of can that you would drink out of but the kind you can pull behind your vehicle and sell soda and hot dogs from. By personally testing his can at flea mar-



FROM THE PAGES OF THE JOURNAL REGISTER THIS WEEK IN 1970: Diane Arnold

kets and other events, Bacyk has refined his state-of-the-art in portable vending stands.

Bacyk has been a one-man machine shop for over 20 years, servicing the aircraft and the defense industries. He has worked with metals ranging from aluminum to titanium to high temperature steel. Over the course of his career, Bacyk has made one-of-a-kind items to productions runs of thousands.

"Those days are over," Bacyk said. "As the aircraft industry around Hartford declined with the shrinking of the defense budget, so did my business. I started this can idea and developed it as I switched from making aircraft parts to selling hot dogs and soda."

"My wife Sue and I have been working the Brimfield flea market for over three years now and this vending stand is the result of that constant testing. Everything is easy to reach and use possible and the equipment is the best."

"This product reflects the same workmanship that I put into all my work, whether it was making parts, rebuilding an old Model A or building this 'Can' designed to vend the all-American hot dog and soda."

The attention to detail that Bill puts into aircraft and helicopter parts indicates that it is the Cadillac of mobile vending stands.

The unit lowers to the ground and opens up with the push of a button. Hydraulic pistons raise the top of the can, so the vendor can be seen and have adequate headroom and another hydraulic system retracts the wheels that the unit sits flat on the ground.

It is equipped with a steam table, stainless steel sink, a 110-volt carbonation system and a four-head soda dispensing unit.

"I've always liked auto racing, so I think I'm going to try to fol-

LOOKING I page 2

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The Falls of Wallamanumps

Note: We asked Indian Orchard native and historian Patrick Duquette to provide us some history of the Falls, which lie below Putts Bridge. Dates presented here are notated “BP” meaning “Before Present” replacing what we use to call “BC”, “Before Christ”.

By Patrick Duquette

When the last glacier receded 30,000 years ago, it left an enormous 200-mile lake in the Connecticut River Valley. Due to a natural debris dam in Rocky Hill, Connecticut, the lake didn’t drain to the ocean, causing it to stay put for 4,000 years from 15,500 BP to 11,500 BP (B.P. Before Present).

Indian Orchard, Wilbraham and Ludlow were under water as they were on the eastern edge of the lake. When the dam finally broke, Lake Hitchcock, as it was later named, drained off and exposed the terrain we have today in our area. It should be noted, many Native American oral histories tell of a large body of water in our region which means Lake Hitchcock took many years to drain completely.

One of the unique terrain features was a natural bridge of red sandstone spanning the Chicopee River between what is now Ludlow and Indian Orchard. Native Americans called the area “Wallamanumps” which translates as “at the red rocks.” The Algonquins named the river “Chickuppe” which means “violent water” and at that time, was an apt description. Early settlers wrote that local tribes crossed the stone bridge by deftly leaping from the castellated rock atop the sandstone. Flat slabs of stone below the dam offered natural platforms for catching salmon and other fish with spears and fish traps.

Tricky Currents

Overall, the Chicopee River is a relatively shallow waterway. When they started building the Indian Orchard mill dam in 1845, the water level rose and formed a large cove just downstream of the Indian Leap trestle. This area is 75 feet deep and has tricky currents. I know this from personal experience and Wilbraham fisherman Harry Setian, who sounded (measured) the area many years ago.

There is evidence, through numerous artifacts, the Indian Leap peninsula was populated by Native Americans for a long period before settlers arrived in Springfield.



PHOTO COURTESY PATRICK DUQUETTE

A view from under Putt's Bridge shows the concrete dam and the falls. Note iron beams above, holding up the span.



Now in the 21st century Putts Bridge provides a vital connection between towns and villages but the river below flows over a wonderland of glacial potholes and amazing rock formations, including caves used by Native Americans, thousands of years ago.

Even older is the archaic tribe that occupied Walnut Island in the Chicopee River delta. Archaeologists have found village sites and artifacts on Walnut Island that date back to 9,500 BP.

The area below the Falls of Wallamanumps is a wonderland of glacial potholes and amazing rock formations, including a small cave near the trail. It should be noted, there are many caves along the river that were used by the Native Americans. Most are now under water. Be advised, entry to this area is somewhat dangerous as the access trail is steep and requires care to negotiate.

Part of Our Legacy

When the city decided to build a concrete dam at Wallamanumps, various contractors harvested the red sandstone along the banks of the river. Knowing this, I assumed they demolished the natural dam/bridge of the by-gone era. Happily, I was wrong. While researching a different project, I stumbled across an obscure note in an engineer’s journal which noted they built the new dam directly in front of the historic red sandstone bridge. It warms my heart just to know the hidden Wallamanumps Bridge is still part of our legacy.

County Bridges, Online Report: Lake Hitchcock, The Indian Crossing in Chicopee Massachusetts 2011 Brian Jones UMASS
Editor Emeritus Charlie Bennett retired as Times editor in 2014 and is a member of the Historic Commission and a trustee of the Wilbraham Atheneum Society. Readers can contact him with comments or ideas for the column at cbennett4765@charter.net.

Mary Bell; and to historian Patrick Duquette.
Sources for Falls at Wallamanumps: History of Western Massachusetts 1855 Josiah Gilbert Holland, History of the Highland Community 1921 Commissioned by the Highland Bank, Ludlow History 1844-1911 Alfred Noon, Ludlow History Centennial Book 1875, History of the Connecticut Valley 1895, Archaeology and History of the Connecticut Valley Indian 1967 editor William R. Young, Online Report: Hampden

HISTORY | from page 4

normal.
The bridge is a fact of life for Wilbraham folks who want to go to work in Ludlow or to get on the Massachusetts Turnpike. These days, I travel over Putt’s Bridge to get to the Ludlow Tennis Club or to the Ludlow Central Bakery for their delicious Portuguese rolls and desserts.

Sources: The Lost New England website. Thanks to Wilbraham Library Director Karen Demers and Assistant Director

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

We took benefits early; can we get more now?

By Russell Gloor
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: My birth year is 1947. My wife’s is 1950. We both took our Social Security years ago at age 62 due to health concerns because we questioned if we would live to age 78 to equalize the extra payout if we would have waited to age 66. Taking early at 62 may have been a mistake and I am wondering if there are any options available to maximize my and/or my wife’s monthly payment with a restricted application or any other available options? My gross monthly is \$946.60, and my wife’s is \$543.60 before the deduction for Medicare. Together our gross monthly is about equal to the per person individual average monthly payment of \$1,479. Signed: Regretful we took SS early.

Dear Regretful: I’m afraid the options for either you or your wife increasing your benefit at this point are extremely limited. You cannot file the restricted application you mentioned because that can only be done by someone applying for the first time (and who was born before 1/2/1954), and only by someone who has not yet reached age 70. Neither can you suspend your benefits to earn delayed retirement credits because DRCs are only earned up to age 70. Your wife has a very

small window until she reaches 70 in March during which she could suspend her benefits, and by doing so immediately she could perhaps earn, at most, an additional 1 percent in DRCs (about \$5 more per month). That leaves only two other things which could increase your benefits: 1) Annual Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) granted each year depending upon inflation, and 2) returning to work and having substantial current earnings which may replace the earnings in a lower-earning year in your lifetime work record (Social Security uses the highest earning 35 years over your lifetime to compute your benefit amount).

If you have some years in that 35-year history with no or very low earnings, working now could replace one or more of those years. I have no way of determining whether that is a possibility; you would need to get your lifetime earnings record from Social Security and see if that is possible by examining your earnings for each year over your lifetime. But remember, all early years of earnings are adjusted for inflation, so for example, \$10,000 earned in 1990 would be equal to about \$25,000 in today’s dollars, and you’d need to earn more than the higher amount to have any effect on your benefit.

I wish I had better news for

you, but the unfortunate reality is that once someone claims their Social Security benefits, the amount is quite fixed. Although it’s possible to withdraw an application within 12 months of initial filing, and it’s also possible to suspend benefits once FRA is reached, neither of those is available to you. And your wife only has a very short window to suspend her benefits, which will reach maximum when she reaches 70 in March. So, except for the COLA increases and returning to work options I’ve discussed above, I’m afraid you have no other opportunity to increase your Social Security benefit amounts.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadviser@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

LOOKING | from page 5

low it around.” Bacyk concluded. “I’m headed for Daytona and I’ll see what happens. After that, If I get orders for these Cans, fine, but this one has already paid for itself and a person can make a fair living if he sells enough soda and hotdogs at weekend events.”

Wales Elementary School earns accreditation from NEASC

WALES—After an intensive two-year self-examination, the Wales Elementary School, headed by principal Joseph DiFabio, was granted accreditation from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc. the oldest of six regional accrediting associations in the United States.

A ceremony honoring schools in the region, which recently achieved this recognition, was held at the

Copley Plaza Hotel Dec. 9. DiFabio and two other faculty members, Lisa Skinner and Christa Meunier, were on hand to accept the award.

Wales is one of only 72 of the state’s 1,225 elementary schools to receive this distinction. It is the first of the five schools in the Tantasqua Regional School system to attain accreditation.

Unusual to the typical elementary school accreditation, the process was the inclusion of over 40 Wales community in the lengthy self-review. The Steering Committee, co-chaired by faculty member Jane Metcalf and parent Deborah Fisher, directed nine subcommittees over an 18-month period to examine and report on a diversity of school issues, ranging from the curriculum to health and safety procedures.

A final report was submitted to the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc., detailing the

school’s strength and weaknesses. Following submission of this report, an independent team of regional educators spent four days on-site at the Wales Elementary school to validate the school’s findings.

Proud to be affiliated with a select group of schools in the state which have achieved accreditation, those involved with the process at the Wales Elementary School continue to set high standards and work toward school improvement. Subcommittees, which will include staff, parents and town residents as members are forming to address weaknesses uncovered during the self-study. The Wales School Council is organizing these subcommittees as part of its ongoing effort to address the needs of the school community.

PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a “people news” form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for the Wilbraham Hampden Times, please email twitkop@turley.com.

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ently at the University of Mass.

Her fiancée is a graduate of Monson Jr. – Sr. High School and is employed with Ace Moulding Co. of Monson, Mass.

100 YEARS AGO

FROM THE PAGES OF THE JOURNAL REGISTER THIS WEEK IN 1920 ...

Gov. Coolidge State Position – Will Not Enter Scramble for Presidential Delegates - **FIRST DUTY IS TO MASSACHUSETTS** - “Am Not a Candidate For President” - Does Not Say Would Not Accept Nomination

Gay, Calvin Coolidge has at last made public his views regarding a possible nomination for the presidency and has in no degree lessened the great respect in which he is held by the position which he takes. Frankly stating that he is fully sensible of the honor which the proposition brings to him he still holds his first duty to Massachusetts and the office of her chief executive, and proposes to do nothing which shall interfere in any way with his work in that capacity. Accordingly, he refuses to enter into a contest for delegates to the convention, and states plainly that “I have not been and I am not a candidate for president.”

This means that he is not seeking the nomination. It falls far short of saying that he will not accept it if it is given to him. It is a dignified position, and in keeping with the strength which Gov. Coolidge has shown in the past, a strength which has been growing of late and which is sure to win him more rather than less, following as the days go by. His name is certain to go before the convention and it is more than likely that Massachusetts will send her delegates unpledged because of his expression, but that will not prevent them from backing the State’s candidate for the nomination.

PALMER NEWS.

A New Book on the Bay Path
There has recently been issued a new book concerning the famous Bay Path, which is so well known in connection with the history of these parts. It is called “The Bay Path and Along the Way.” and is written by Levi Badger Chase of Sturbridge. Mr. Chase is a careful historian and has put a great deal of time hunting over old deeds and land grants in order to find the exact location of this famous old path between Massachusetts Bay and the Connecticut River. It shows that, contrary to the general impression, the Path ran south of the Quaboag river through Palmer, cutting across land used formerly of the State Primary School, now the Monson State Hospital; from there it continued over the hills close to Silver Street in Monson, coming to the Chicopee river at the mouth of Twelve-mile brook near North Wilbraham. Maps and photographs make the volume an extremely interesting one to the student of local history who wishes to know the truth about the old Bay Path. Copies may be obtained of Mr. Chase.

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LOCAL

Opportunity IS KNOCKING

STAFF WRITER POSITION

Turley Publications is seeking an energetic person to fill the position of staff writer for two of its weekly publications: the *Ware River News*, which covers Ware, Hardwick and Warren, and the *Quaboag Current*, which covers the Brookfields, Sturbridge and New Braintree. This full-time position is based in our Ware office at 80 Main St. The successful candidate will have strong community journalism skills or the enthusiasm to develop them.

The staff writer will cover municipal meetings, features and general news; essentially everything that unfolds in small towns. Assignments will be for both newspapers as well as other companywide publications.

Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor’s degree or equivalent experience
- Own camera and photography experience preferred
- Enthusiasm for community journalism
- Ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced environment

Please email resume and three writing samples directly to Eileen Kennedy Managing Editor at ekennedy@turley.com.



Turley Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com

LOCAL

Opportunity IS KNOCKING

EDITOR POSITION

Turley Publications is seeking an energetic person to fill the position of editor for two of its weekly publications, the *Journal Register*, which covers Palmer and surrounding towns, and the *Ludlow Register*. This full-time position is based in our Palmer office at 24 Water St.

The successful candidate will have strong community journalism skills. They must also be able to manage a staff writer, including copy editing and guiding coverage. The editor is also expected to gather news and write stories for the two papers as well as for other companywide publications.

This is a job for a self-starter who has a vision for growing and connecting with our valued readers, and who enjoys community journalism.

Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor’s degree or equivalent experience
- Willingness to mentor a staff writer and correspondents
- Own camera and photography experience preferred
- Editing experience and ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
- Proficiency in Associated Press style
- Management experience and/or experience managing content for a print publication.

Please email resume and three writing samples directly to Eileen Kennedy Managing Editor at ekennedy@turley.com.



Turley Publications, Inc.
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St. John the Baptist School to host open house

LUDLOW – St. John the Baptist School, 217 Hubbard St., Ludlow, will hold an open house for prospective parents on Wednesday, Feb. 12, from 6 to 7 p.m. Principal Shelly Rose, along with classroom and specialty teachers in art, music, computer, and physical education, will be available to answer questions and a team of current parents will provide tours of the school. There are limited openings available from nursery school through eighth grade.

St. John the Baptist School is a Catholic elementary school serving students from nursery school to eighth grade from over 10 area communities since 1925.

St. Aloysius Catholic School offers scholarships

GILBERTVILLE – A benefactor of St. Aloysius Catholic School has pledged \$35,000 in matching funds towards the school’s 2020/2021 scholarship drive, \$5,000 more the amount offered last year. “This benefactor visited the school recently and is so happy that we are here, providing a local option for a Catholic education. He hopes that even more families will be able to enroll their children; reducing tuition is a big motivator for parents,” said Roberta McQuaid, the school’s director. “There is much excitement over the recent addition of another classroom for our youngest students. We now have distinct preschool and pre-kindergarten classrooms, which offer developmentally appropriate learning experiences for our 3 and 4-year-olds. We are also providing experiential learning experiences for our oldest students. Each week they spend an afternoon in Ware at Workshop13, where they are thoroughly engaged in various art classes.”

Last year the school raised slightly more than its goal of \$30,000. With matching funds, a total of \$60,435 was divided equitably to reduce tuitions by \$1,000 for each full-price student.

“Our goal would be to maintain, if not increase this discount. Currently, with the scholarship, it costs \$2,800 a year for a family’s first student in grades K-8, with a discount for siblings and a premium for the five-day preschool program. This equates to as low as \$20 per day” said McQuaid.

Father Richard A. Lembo, pastor, is grateful to everyone who supported last year’s scholarship drive and hopes even more people will contribute this time around. “The future you are providing for these students through their education includes a foundation for their Catholic Faith life. We know that faith in God helps support and sustain students through their entire life.”

St. Aloysius Catholic School’s unique mission includes operating in a family-centered environment that provides faith formation, innovative academics, and a commitment to the local community. The school serves students in preschool through grade 8.

For more information about St. Aloysius Catholic School or to make a tax-deductible donation that will be matched dollar for dollar to the Scholarship Fund, please visit www.staloyiuscatholicsschool.com. Donations can also be mailed to St. Aloysius Catholic School, P.O. Box 522, Gilbertville, MA 01031, noting “Scholarship Fund” on the memo line. Donations to the Scholarship Fund received prior to March 15 will help reduce tuition rates for the upcoming school year.

For more information email McQuaid at rmcquaid@staloyiuscatholicsschool.com or call the school at 413-477-1268.

Master gardener to speak Feb. 21

WILBRAHAM – The Springfield Garden Club will host “Not Your Grandmother’s Hostas” presented by Stephen Shaw, from the Massachusetts Master Gardeners Association Speaker’s Bureau Friday, Feb. 21 at 11:30 a.m.

Hostas are a top selling perennial in the United States. Those growing “The Green One” and “The Green and White One” are missing out on the variety of colors, sizes, and shapes of today’s hostas. This talk will help gardeners identify new plants, suggest the best places to buy them, and how to make them look their best.

Shaw retired after 36 years as a teacher and principal. He joined the Massachusetts Master Gardeners in 2012, becoming a lifetime master gardener and coordinating the master Gardener Training Program.

The meeting will be held at Wilbraham United Church, 500 Main St., Wilbraham. A light luncheon and beverages will be served beginning at 11:30 a.m. Guest fee is \$5.

For more information on this and other Springfield Garden Club events, visit www.gcfm.org/springfield-gardenclub or find them on Facebook at facebook.com/SpringfieldMAGardenClub.

Oak tree health workshop and listening session in Belchertown on Feb. 4

BELCHERTOWN – Those with dead or weakened oak trees on their property might want to come to a free Oak Health Workshop being held in Belchertown on Tuesday, Feb. 4.

The Department of Conservation & Recreation, the Forest Stewards Guild and the Massachusetts Tree Farm program are holding an Oak Health

workshop and Landowner Listening session at the Belchertown Town Hall Auditorium on Jabish Street on Tuesday, Feb. 4, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Oaks are among the most important forest species in Massachusetts, both for their timber value and for their importance for wildlife habitat. Oaks, however, have been declining in much of the United

States due to the effects of insects, disease, and deer. In southern New England, the repeated gypsy moth defoliation of recent years have resulted in extensive oak decline and death, with nearly 100,000 acres of oak stands killed as a result.

At the workshop, speakers from DCR’s Forest Health program and the Forest Stewards

Guild will discuss the importance of oaks in our landscape, the effects of the gypsy moth defoliation and the process for dealing with declining or dead oaks.

Introductions will begin at 6:30 p.m., and at 6:50 p.m., the speakers will cover why oaks are important, oak health issues and resources for oak stewardship, followed by an opportunity to ask questions.

The workshop is free and light refreshments will be available. In case of snow, the program will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 11 at the same time and location.

For more information, call Doug Hutcheson at 413-545-7020.

Come sing with the Quaboag Choral Society

WEST BROOKFIELD – Director/Conductor Eric von Bleicken, of the Quaboag Choral Society, is inviting people to come sing with the group. He is welcoming new chorus members and would like to extend an invitation to any individuals who enjoy participating in a choral group setting to share in making music with us. Just a teaser: this season will highlight musical theater favorites.

Rehearsals began on Sunday, Feb. 2, from 5 to 7 p.m., and will continue weekly at the West Brookfield First Congregational Church for its Spring Concert Series.

QCS is a well-established community choral group and has been offering quality creative concerts for more than 10 years. Its concerts are unique as it combines a scripted educational component threading the musical choices together while painting an emotional picture that sets the scene for each musical choice.

Anyone interested may email evdadders@charter.net or can message the on our Quaboag Choral Society Facebook page.

QCS is a nonprofit and its programs are sponsored in part by grants from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and generous donors.

Share the love of art on Feb. 15

WARE – Come feel the love at ArtWorks in February, when several of the area’s favorite local artists share the love stories that inspired some of their works. Enjoy a rare glimpse behind the canvas, and find out how these artists turned their love stories into remarkable works of art.

Bring your sweetheart and join us for a special Valentine-themed artists’ reception on Saturday, Feb. 15, from 5 to 7 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

The artists’ work will be on display as well as their stories from Jan. 31 through Feb. 27 at ArtWorks Gallery, 69 Main St. in Ware. ArtWorks is open on Fridays from 3 to 7 p.m., Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sundays from noon to 4 p.m.. To learn more about ArtWorks, go online to workshop13.org/gallery, call 413-277-6069 or email artworks@workshop13.org.



Turley Publications staff photo by Jonah Snowden

SECOND | from page 1

2nd annual Fashion Show on Feb. 7, at 7 p.m. “It’s just an introduction to the people in the area and were hoping that it will bring in more girls to look at the shop, and their families to they can spread the word,” said Tulik. Any female would like to model are welcome to visit the boutique on Sunday, Feb. 2 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 5, 5 to 7 p.m., and Thursday, Feb. 5, and 5 to 7 p.m.

Realizing how far they have come, and thinking about how many families have been helped, both Tulik and Annecchiarico said they are happy with what they accomplished and that it’s a dream come true. “There’s pretty much nothing I don’t love about the shop. It’s magical,” said Tulik. “I love seeing how happy these young girls are leaving with the dress that they thought they would never be able to afford or even to attend prom with,

we made that a reality.”

Annecchiarico said that for her, the best part is witnessing a girl get a new dress with a grin on her face knowing that she is getting exactly what she wants and will walk around in it not wanting to take if off right away. Another piece is when the parents come in the shop and realize that their daughter is getting a prom dress, whereas if they were going to a boutique, they would be looking at \$200, or even up to \$400 for a dress. “Parents are so appreciative us, and look at us kind of awestruck,” said Annecchiarico.

The new location of the boutique is 4 Springfield St. Bldg 2, on the second floor, in Three Rivers. For more information, store hours, or to learn how to donate a dress, call Tulik at 413-530-5966, Annecchiarico at 413-364-7240, or visit their Facebook page, <https://bit.ly/3aMaw7P>.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Fall down

5. American TV company (abbr.)

8. Exclamation that denotes disgust

11. Gallantry

13. Chinese word signifying “doctrine”

14. Prefix meaning “beside”

15. Act of imitating

16. Tall, rounded vase

17. Sixth month of Jewish civil calendar

18. Rural Iranian village

20. Time zone

21. Military weapon (abbr.)

22. Gets rid of

25. Aggressive

30. Addressed one's appearance

31. Affirmative

32. Denoting Indo-European

languages

33. French noble family

38. Shock therapy

41. Having characteristics of both sexes

43. Large suitcase

45. One who identifies God with the universe

48. Swiss river

49. Frequently

50. Wipe out

55. Invests in little enterprises

56. Waste

57. Resembles a large shrimp

59. Derogatory name for rural resident

60. Menswear accessory

61. Tropical American tree

62. Pitching statistic

63. Camera type

64. Cardinal number that is the sum of five and one

CLUES DOWN

1. Surgical procedure of the heart (abbr.)

2. Northern Scandinavian indigenous person

3. Evergreen trees and shrubs

4. Meat from a domestic hog

5. State of insensibility

6. Herb

7. Annuity

8. San Diego-based ballplayer

9. Members of a Semitic people

10. Any physical damage

12. Woolen rug

14. Alsos Mission leader

19. Aromatic plant used as culinary herb

23. Where you sleep

24. Ruled Russia

25. Indicates density of data (abbr.)

26. Sea eagle

27. Type of light bulb

28. Wreath

29. Graduate with a degree

34. What thespians do

35. “Orange is the New Black” character

36. Comedienne Gasteyer

37. Romanian monetary unit

39. People treated as a group

40. Small European plant

41. First responder group

42. A person's head

44. Giggle

45. Bura-...; Chadic language

46. Snout moth genus

47. Body part

48. Inspirational Wimbledon champ

51. Revolutions per minute

52. American software developer

53. Ancient Greek city

54. Female sheep

58. “The Science Guy”

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Travel

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The Journal Register



Photos by Shelby Macri

Wyckoff Country Club in Holyoke has new owners.



The front entrance to the Wyckoff Country Club.



The new front patio area at the Wyckoff Country Club, overlooking the golf course.

Wyckoff’s new owners expand offerings

By Shelby Macri
smacri@turley.com

New owners at the Wyckoff Country Club have increased the capacity of the club’s restaurant and dining area. They have also built a patio outside of the restaurant that holds 28 tables for at least 100 seats.

“The downstairs capacity for event space has also increased, the fireplace room has at least another 100 guests for its capacity,” said Kyle Kirkland, a member of the Wyckoff crew that does a little bit of everything for the club. Kirkland explained that the downstairs formerly accommodated only 100 total diners between the two rooms.

Each of the two rooms downstairs now has a capacity of 100, and can be used for public and private events. Wyckoff even has its own event coordinators to help

those who want to host a party there.

“Our goal is to expand to different areas, more weddings and parties,” said Beth VanZandt, the office manager.

“More public events, as well, to kind of include the city, more things that will create a bigger draw not only for the members, but for everyone,” added Kirkland.

Last year, in June, the club held its grand opening for the patio, and 400-500 people flooded the grounds to see the view of the golf course, and a few other things. The grand opening included a band playing and a fireworks show. Kirkland said he wants to build on that energy.

“We do hope to outreach — especially with what we do here for events — I know that the St. Patrick’s Day Committee is looking for event space for next year, and they’re looking into poten-

tially have events here,” Kirkland said.

He further explained that the club is trying to make connections with different companies and businesses to act as vendors for events.

“We have some connections with local beauty salons, for when we do events for beauty supplies. So for hair, makeup and nails, that sort of thing,” Kirkland said. “Getting different photographers from the area, getting breweries, even, we’re just trying to bring in a collective group of different people from the community. Whether that’s Holyoke itself or the surrounding towns and communities.”

Future plans for the Wyckoff Country Club include events such as a Valentine’s Day dinner on Feb. 14, Easter dinner, Mother’s Day brunch, different events for St. Patrick’s Day, and possibly getting the Mummers Band at

the club for a show a week before the St. Patrick’s Day festivities. Details of upcoming events will be posted on the club’s Facebook page and website.

Though the restaurant is open to the public, Wyckoff will keep part of its clubhouse for members.

“We’re trying to get that [the restaurant] up and going, and where it should be,” Kirkland said. “It should be up to an everyday basis, once we get to the golf season. The direction that we’re going is to have a space for our members, but also to include the surrounding community.”

Over the winter, the restaurant has been open on Wednesday nights, 4:30-8 p.m., with a “Burger Night” menu, as well as serving breakfast on Saturday (8-11 a.m.) and Sunday (8 a.m. to noon). Kirkland said the restaurant is looking into other themed menus and special nights, such as pitch, trivia or

Bus trip to see “9 to 5”

SPRINGFIELD – The Catholic Woman’s Club of the Diocese of Springfield invites the public to join them for a bus trip to see “9 to 5” the musical by Dolly Parton at the Westchester Broadway Theatre in Elmsford, N.Y. on Wednesday, Sept. 9. The bus leaves the Big Y parking lot in Ludlow at 7:30 a.m. and returns about 7:30 p.m. There will be a choice of lunch entrees. Tickets are \$100 each and seating assignments are made as checks are receive. Deadline for payment is June 20. Call Ruth at 413-531-3506 for more information.

Holyoke to host dog show next month

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Parks and Recreation Department will sponsor a Dog Show and Pet Vendor Fair from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22, in the Holyoke High School gymnasium at 500 Beech St., Holyoke.

Admission for spectators is free. Owners may enter their dogs in up to two categories of competition for \$5 per entry.

Categories include celebrity look-alike, dog and owner look-alike, best smile, best dog trick, best dressed, fastest tail wagger, fluffiest, pooch that can smooch, most obedient, best groomed, and best in show. Prizes and ribbons will be awarded to the winners, and goodie bags will be given to all canine participants.

To register for the competition, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 413-322-5620, or visit the office on the lower level of City Hall, 536 Dwight St., Holyoke.

STUDENTS | from page 1

Jenkins said research suggests marijuana is addictive for between 9 and 30 percent of those who use it. The survey showed 90 percent of eighth-graders, 78 of 10th-graders and 62 percent of 12th-graders reported not using marijuana. She also said the survey showed that for those who did use marijuana, 15 percent reported they felt tired, groggy and unmotivated, 12 percent reported they had difficulty remembering and 11 percent reported coughing and breathing problems.

Another concern around marijuana is students using and then driving, with 21 percent of 12th-graders reporting they drove under the influence of marijuana in the 30 days before taking the survey.

The Alliance is also expending additional grant funds in an education effort about using substances and driving, and the danger it poses to students and the communities.

Also, the survey showed that 80 percent of eighth-graders, 72 percent of 10th-graders and 54 percent of 12th-graders said they had not vaped in the 30 days prior to the survey. Vaping is the use of electronic cigarettes which uses a juice that is heated up and then inhaled. Jenkins said virtually all vape juice contains nicotine, and it is not regulated by the Food and Drug Administration.

“The good news is that vaping is not done by the majority of students,” said Jenkins.

Bullying, depression

Perhaps the most concerning



Turley Publications staff photos by Eileen Kennedy
Those attending the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance meeting Monday at Baystate Mary Lane heard the results of the 2019 Prevention Needs Assessment Survey of eighth, 10th and 12th graders use of substances, and their perceptions of use by their fellow students.

results of the survey was about the frequency of depression, suicidal thoughts and self harm.

“These are tough numbers to look at,” said Jenkins.

In the past year 46.7 percent of students in eighth grade reported they have felt depressed or sad most days, with 40.4 percent of 10th-graders and 46.1 percent of 12th-graders feeling the same. The number for considering suicide in the past year showed 18.9 percent of eighth-graders had as had 15.3 of 10th-graders and 20.2 of 12th-graders.

Students who reported self-harm, such as cutting themselves, showed 21.6 of eighth-graders doing so as well as 15.2 of 10th-graders and 16.8 of 12th-graders.

Also, 45.6 percent of eighth-graders reported feeling they are no good at all sometimes, along with 41.9 percent of 10th-graders and 44.9 percent of 12th-graders.

When asked if they had been bullied within the last 12 months, 28.3 said they had been, and when bullying did happen it most frequently happened online, at 12.4 percent, or in the school hallways, at 11.1 percent.

Gramarossa and Jenkins said there would be future discussions around those results.

The Alliance plans to post the survey results online at www.qhsua.org. Those with questions can contact Jenkins at njenkins@townof-quabamont.com or 413-544-4386.

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MIAA

Statewide tournament proposal coming down to final vote

Editor's note: This is the first of a four-part series to break down the statewide tournament proposal, what it is, it's effect on the Western Mass. region, the challenges, and how your athletic directors and coaches feel about it.

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

FRANKLIN — A major proposal is coming to a final vote, which could change the way Massachusetts high school sports competes in postseason.

Depending on the outcome of a vote scheduled to be held at a special assembly meeting on Feb. 28, there could be major changes made to the tournament format. If the proposal is passed, all four sectional (North, South, Central, West) tournaments would be eliminated and replaced by a statewide tournament.

New divisional alignments for all sports are part of the proposal.

A majority vote by the 380 member schools will be needed in order for the proposal to pass.

The members of the MIAA's Tournament Management Committee held a press conference at the MIAA office in Franklin on Jan. 9 to discuss the new proposal, which they've been working on since 2016.

"I'm all about history. I love traditions," said Westborough High School athletic director Johanna DiCarlo, a member of the TMC. "I also think it's time to move this a little bit forward. We can create something here, an incredible opportunity for the association to change the way we're doing business and create something special for our kids and our communities."

The other members of the

MIAA | page 2

BASKETBALL

Gerry, Duggan lead Mustangs to win

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

MONSON—Matt Niemczura and Ryan McCarthy guided the Palmer boys basketball team to the 2017 Division 3 state finals.

Sophomore Colby Duggan and senior Logan Gerry are hoping to lead the Monson Mustangs, a Division 4 team, on a similar postseason journey in March.

In the Mustangs only meeting of the regular season against the Palmer Panthers, the duo of Gerry and Duggan combined to score 62 points. It helped the Mustangs celebrate an 84-62 victory in a Bi-County cross-over game played before a large crowd at Michael J. Kane Gymnasium on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

"This is a very big win for us against one of our biggest rivals," said Duggan, who posted a double-double with a career-high 35 points and 11 rebounds. "Logan and I were feeding off each other the whole game. We also built an early lead and never gave it up."

Gerry finished the game with 27 points. He was also credited with five assists and five rebounds.

"Logan is our point guard and he always passes me the ball as much as he can," Duggan said. "It's a lot of fun playing on the same basketball team with him."

It was also Gerry's final high school basketball game against the Panthers.

"It just feels great to beat Palmer in my final game against them, especially in front of our home fans," Gerry said. "I do remember losing to Palmer when I was a freshman. That was the

MUSTANGS | page 2



Francis Venne watches his shot get ready to drop in for two.

Photos by Jack Cascio NEAP.smugmug.com



Tyler Placanico fights to gain control of the rebound.



Danny Feister checks out the defense as he dribbles towards the rim.

SOCCER



Jillian Lombardi reaches up for a short-range shot.

Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Panthers cap successful month with win over Lions

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW — The Palmer Lady Panthers have been very successful playing basketball games on Friday nights this season, especially during the month of January.

The Lady Panthers improved their Friday night record to a perfect 3-0 with a 40-36 victory against Central Division rival Ludlow at Mullins Gymnasium, last Friday.

"We have a couple of players recovering from the flu and from injuries, so it feels very nice to win another road game on a Friday night," said Palmer co-head coach Denise Levasseur. "It was a total team effort tonight."

Palmer's other two Friday night victories so far this season came at home against archrival Ware (43-39) on Jan. 3 and at Sabnis (62-51) on Jan. 17.

The Lady Panthers will be looking to keep their Friday night winning streak alive this week when they make the short trip to Monson High School. The Lady Mustangs are currently in first place in the Central Division standings, so it won't be a very easy task for the Lady Panthers.

The four-point road win versus Ludlow evened Palmer's overall season record at 5-5 and they had a 2-2 league mark.

"We've been improving in ev-

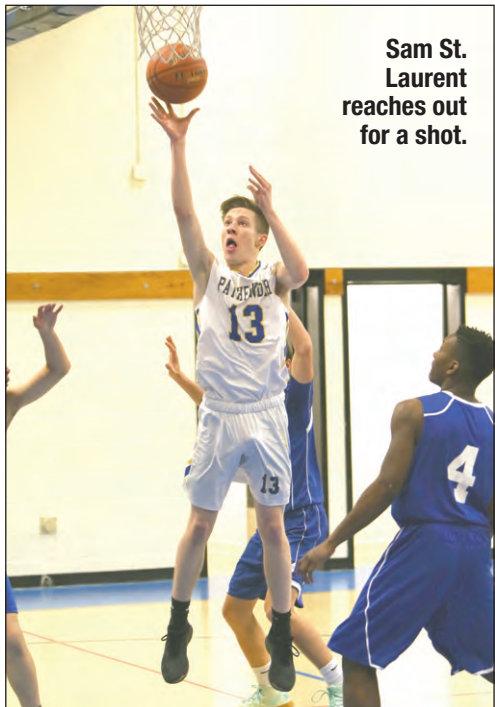
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BASKETBALL

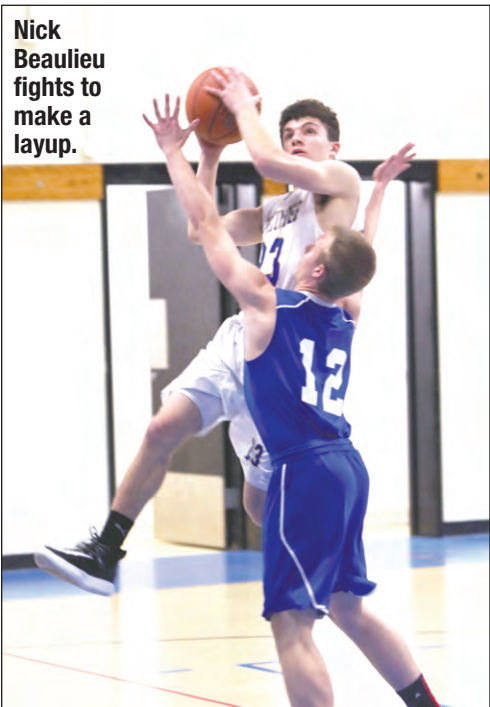
Pioneers take on PVCA

PALMER — Last Friday night, the Pathfinder High School boys basketball team took to the court to face Pioneer Valley Christian Academy. Pathfinder is out to a 3-5 start this season and is hoping to make it back into the playoff hunt.

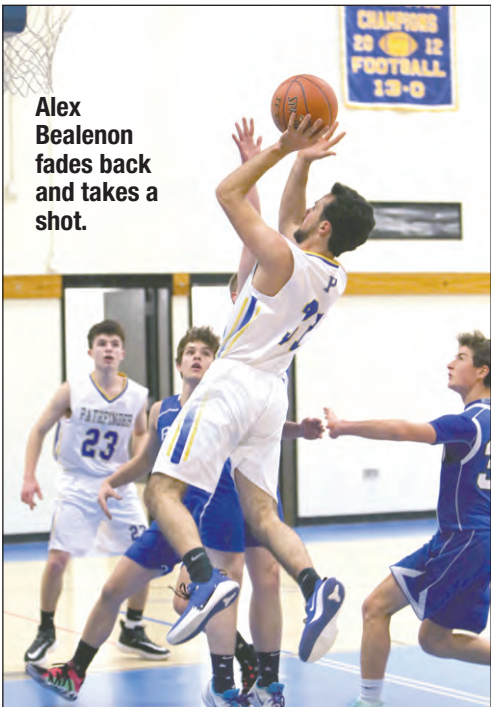
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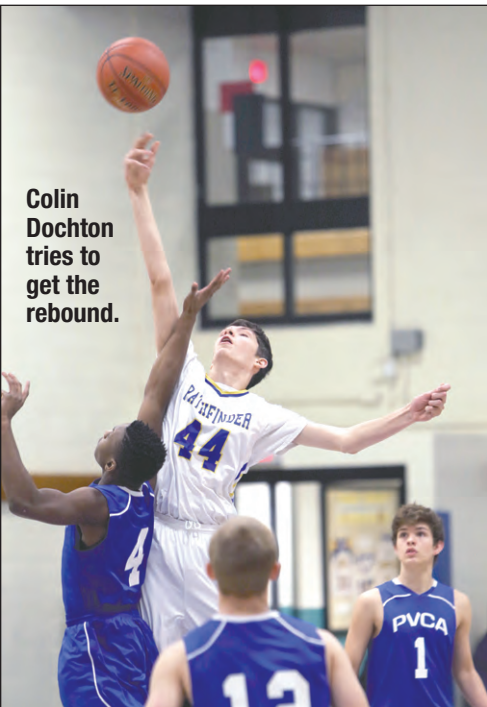
Sam St. Laurent reaches out for a shot.



Nick Beaulieu fights to make a layup.



Alex Bealenon fades back and takes a shot.



Colin Dochton tries to get the rebound.



A Red Sox entertainer on stilts performs with his ukulele for spectators. The stilt performers are normally milling around Fenway Park on game days.



Among the many activities for children at the event was consoles set up to play MLB '20, the Show.



Photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Gold Gloves won by current and former Red Sox players are displayed. The gloves are real baseball gloves painted gold.

BASEBALL

Red Sox Winter Weekend comes to Western Mass.

SPRINGFIELD — Two weeks ago, the precursor to Spring Training came to the area as Springfield's MGM hosted Boston Red Sox Winter Weekend. Fans who attended the weekend had an opportunity to participate in many activities, meet former and current Red Sox players, and see memorabilia on display. There were also panel discussions, autograph sessions, and meet and greets. Of note, the Red Sox's four World Series trophies were on display. Fans could view and have their photograph taken with the trophies, won in 2004, 2007, 2013, and 2018. It was the first time the Winter Weekend has come to the region.

The week ahead

Palmer High School

<i>Boys Basketball</i>			
Tuesday, Feb. 4	Away	Baystate Academy	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 5	Home	Ludlow	7 p.m.
<i>Girls Basketball</i>			
Friday, Jan. 31	Away	Monson	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 4	Home	Westfield	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 5	Away	Frontier	7:30 p.m.
<i>Ice Hockey (co-op with Amherst Regional)</i>			
Saturday, Feb. 1	Home	Ludlow	8 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 4	Away	Belchertown	4 p.m.

Monson High School

<i>Boys Basketball</i>			
Thursday, Jan. 30	Home	Hampshire	7 p.m.
<i>Girls Basketball</i>			
Friday, Jan. 31	Home	Palmer	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 4	Home	Chicopee Comp.	7 p.m.
Wed., Feb. 5	Home	Belchertown	7 p.m.

Pathfinder High School

<i>Boys Basketball</i>			
Monday, Feb. 3	Away	PVCA	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 4	Away	Baystate Acad.	6:30 p.m.
<i>Girls Basketball</i>			
Friday, Jan. 31	Away	Westfield Tech	6 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 3	Home	Sci-Tech	7 p.m.
Wed., Feb. 5	Away	Renaissance	6 p.m.
<i>Wrestling</i>			
Tuesday, Feb. 4	Home	Duggan	7 p.m.

Points format announced for Modified Series

By Kyle Souza

SEEKONK — Tri-Track Open Modified Series officials announced on Wednesday the point standings structure that will be used for the 2020 season.

As part of six events, drivers will tally points in each feature. In 2020, the champion will be decided by taking the best five out of six point totals a driver receives. Drivers will no longer be required to attend all six events to score the championship, but with a drop race factored into the totals, the new format allows for a driver to have a miscue, while still being in contention for the title.

“This will give drivers a bit more of a buffer in case something goes wrong at one of the races,” Wayne Darling, one of two Managing Partners of the Tri Track Open Modified Series, said. “This is just one of many announcements we will have over the next few months. We’re looking forward to getting the season underway in May.”

The entire point fund for the season totals \$15,000 in prize money, with the top 15 spots in the final standings set to earn a bonus.

The series also announced that registrations for the season are open and rules have been posted to the website. Teams can register and see rules by visiting the all-new Tri Track Open Modified Series website, tritrackmods.com, and visiting the team info page.

If race teams complete the registration for the full season between January 16 and March 31, the charge is just \$450 for six events.

Any full season registrations made after March 31 will be \$550. For those competitors interested in just registering for one event, the cost is \$150 per event. Teams can send registration payment to the Tri Track PayPal account, info@tritrackmods.com, through the website.

After just a few days, more than a handful of teams have already entered. Owner Stan Mertz has entered with Woody Pitkat set to return behind the wheel, while upcoming racers Ryan Doucette and Dylan Izzo are also on the list. Joey Cipriano, a regular in Stafford Motor Speedway’s SK Modified division joins them, along with others. The list is growing daily.

The 2020 schedule begins on Saturday, May 2, when drivers will take to the high banks of Monadnock Speedway in Winchester, N.H., to open the year. After that, a stop at Claremont Speedway on Memorial Day weekend (May 24), is followed by the annual Open Wheel Wednesday at Seekonk Speedway, the only mid-week show, on Wednesday, July 1. The final three races include the annual SBM 125 at Star Speedway (July 25), Monadnock Speedway (Aug. 15) and the annual Haunted Hundred at Seekonk Speedway (Oct. 24), where the champion will be crowned.



Saige Youngberg gets set for an underhand layup.



JoJo McTier holds the ball in the middle of the court.



Maddie Theriault takes a fading shot.



Kendall Lavasseur looks to make a pass.

PANTHERS ■ from page 9

ery game,” said Palmer co-head coach Amanda Theriault. “Everyone played in tonight’s game and it was a very good learning experience, especially for the younger kids on the varsity team. Playing in these types of games is only going to help us in the future.”

The duo of sophomore Maddy Theriault and junior Jillian Lombardi combined to score 32 of the Lady Panthers 40 points in the first meeting of the regular season against Ludlow.

“Maddy had another great performance tonight,” coach Levasseur said. “Jillian was injured at the beginning of the season, but she has been playing very well since returning to action a couple of weeks ago. Everyone just did a great job tonight.”

Theriault scored 15 of her game-high 19 points during the first half, while Lombardi took over the spotlight offensively during the second half by scoring 11 of her 13 points.

Palmer junior Kendall Levasseur chipped in with four points while Saige Youngberg, who’s in the eighth grade, and

freshman JoJo McTier had two points apiece.

Ludlow had a 4-9 overall record and a 0-3 league record following the home loss.

The Lady Lions, who didn’t have any double digit scorers, were led by junior Elizabeth Kopeck with eight points. Freshmen Kaylee Lyman and Mikala Stefanelli each scored six points. Freshman Alivia Hamel added five points.

The Lady Panthers took a 39-29 lead with 1:14 remaining in regulation following a made free throw by Theriault. It was their largest lead of the ballgame, but the Lady Lions did make it very interesting during the final minute of the contest.

After a fast-break lay-up by Hamel, Stefanelli buried her second 3-pointer of the game from the top of the key closing the gap to 39-34 with 31 seconds left on the scoreboard clock.

Lyman made the Lady Lions other two 3-pointers during the second quarter.

Following a Ludlow timeout, Theriault made one of two

shots from the foul line giving her team a six point lead.

The Lady Lions missed several shots during the final ten seconds before senior Kayla McKay made a jumper at the buzzer. It was her only points of the contest.

“We’re a young and inexperienced team this year,” coach Theriault said. “Ludlow did put a lot of pressure on us during the final two minutes and we panicked out there, but we did manage to hold onto the lead.”

Neither team could get on track offensively during the first eight minutes of the contest.

Theriault scored five points in the first quarter for the visiting team, while Levasseur added a put-back hoop.

The Lady Lions three made field goals in the opening quarter were by junior Arayah Remillard, junior Kali Grimes, and sophomore Jacinda Hewes. Those were the only points that those three players scored in the game.

The Lady Panthers entered the second quarter holding a slim 7-6 lead.

MUSTANGS ■ from page 9

year that they made it to the state finals. I’ve been playing against the Palmer players since I was little and it has always been a lot of fun playing them.”

The only other senior listed on the Mustangs varsity roster is Sam Malo, who finished the contest with 6 points.

The Mustangs, who made a total of 15 3-pointers, had a 7-4 overall record following the home victory.

“We’re going to be a very tough team to beat whenever we can shoot the ball the way that we did tonight,” said Monson head coach Joe Trivisonno. “The game of basketball is certainly a lot easier when you’re making shots.”

Gerry made a total of six 3-pointers, while Duggan, who’s 6-foot-5, made five shots from beyond the arc.

“Colby is very tall and nobody can really stop him,” Gerry said. “He can score down low and he can also make shots from the outside. I love having him as a member of my basketball team. We’ve been playing very well

during the past couple of games and we’re hoping to keep it rolling the rest of the season.”

Monson junior Connor Santos made three 3-pointers leading to his 9 points in the game.

There are a total of nine seniors listed on the Panthers roster. They are Alex Gladkowski (5 points), Trevor Lambertson, Tyler Placanico (6 points), Harvey Francis (11 points), Gabe Coleman (2 points), Nick Pappaceno, Jacob Bollea, Nate Letendre (4 points), and Chad Bigos (14 points).

Sophomore Jack Letendre paced the Panthers with 18 points.

“Several of our players are battling the flu or injuries,” said Palmer head coach Ed Anderson. “We just didn’t play as well as we could and we’re going to bounce back from this loss.”

Palmer had a 6-5 overall record following the road loss.

The Panthers did play well during the first four minutes of the opening quarter.

Bigos scored 10 points during that span, which helped

the Panthers build a 14-10 lead.

Gerry and Duggan combined to score 17 of the Mustangs final 19 points in the opening quarter, which gave them a 29-18 lead.

Duggan closed out the first quarter with a couple of jumpers, which were sandwiched around a 3-pointer from the top of the key.

“He’s (Duggan) by far the best player that we’ve played against so far this season,” Anderson said. “He does a lot of outstanding things on the court that helps his team. We tried to defend him several different ways, but none of them worked tonight.”

While Trivisonno has coached a couple of 1,000-point scorers at Monson High School, he has never coached a player like Duggan before.

“Colby is the most unique basketball player that I’ve ever coached,” Trivisonno said. “He’s a 6-foot-5 guard, but he’s usually the tallest player on the court. He’s probably going to be a forward in the future. He’s blossoming into a very good basketball player and the sky is the limit for him.”

The Panthers, who outscored Monson 15-12 during the second quarter, were trailing 41-33 at halftime.

Venne ended the first half by sinking a 3-pointer from the left side.

Gerry scored 10 points during the third quarter, as the Mustangs built a comfortable 63-46 advantage.

“Logan is an unselfish basketball player,” Trivisonno said. “He always plays very hard in every game.”

Duggan also scored 10 points during the final eight minutes of the contest, which pushed the Panthers lead over twenty points.

With a little more than a minute remaining, Duggan put an exclamation point on the Mustangs victory with a crowd-pleasing thundering dunk.

The other Monson points in the game against Palmer were scored by junior’s Scottie Watson (3 points), Danny Fiester (2 points), and Gabe Zippin (2 points).

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Athlete of the Week



Logan Gerry

Monson High School

Logan Gerry nailed six three-pointers for Monson in a huge win for the Mustangs over rival Palmer. To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.

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T-Birds pick up win over Tigers before break

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (25-19-2-0) scored the final four goals of the night in knocking off the Bridgeport Sound Tigers (15-25-4-1) by a final score of 6-2 on Saturday night before a sellout crowd of 6,793 inside the MassMutual Center.

The first period was a shooting gallery from start for each of the Atlantic Division foes, but Jared Coreau in the Bridgeport net and Sam Montembeault in the T-Birds crease had answers for 16 shots each in the opening period.

Springfield had the only two special teams chances in the period, but the power play could not dent Coreau despite extended pressure on the man advantage.

The middle period finally cracked

the goal-scoring seal, and a wild 20-minute session ensued, beginning with rookie Jake Massie beating Coreau from the high slot to give Springfield the 1-0 advantage at 7:12 of the period.

Just 2:01 later, the Sound Tigers tied the game under controversial circumstances. Bobo Carpenter intercepted a pass from Montembeault and fired it right back at the T-Birds netminder. A whistle sounded right as Cole Bardreau slipped the puck into the empty net, but the goal stood. T-Birds coach Georgie Kinnear got into a heated discussion with the officials, to which the crowd responded to an enormous roar.

T-BIRDS ■ page 2

MIAA ■ from page 9

TMC, who attended the press conference, were former Saint John’s Prep (Danvers) Athletic Director James O’Leary, MIAA liaison Sherry Bryant, and Burlington High School Athletic Director Shaun Hart. No representatives from Western Massachusetts at the press conference.

A few weeks ago, the MIAA Board of Directors voted 14-3 in favor of holding a vote for the new statewide tournament at a site to be determined on Feb. 28.

If the new tournament plan is approved, it would start in the fall of 2021.

The TMC plan calls for many sports to be divided into five divisions. Tennis, field hockey, lacrosse will have four divisions. Boys ice hockey will have three, while girls ice hockey and boys volleyball will have two. Just like the current tournament format, each high school will be put into a division based on their enrollment.

The football tournament is still up in the air at the moment. The football committee is trying to figure out if they want to play a seven-week regular season and have 32 teams qualify for the playoffs in each division or play eight weeks and only have 16 teams in the playoffs.

“The Western and Central part of the state currently plays an eight-week regular season schedule, while Eastern Mass. only plays seven weeks,” O’Leary said. “That’s something the football committee still needs to figure out.”

The seeding and pairings for the new statewide tournament will be handled by Maxpreps. The top 32 teams in each Division will be ranked by Maxpreps. Those 32 teams will also automatically qualify for the tournament. The other teams, who finish the regular season with at least a .500 record, will also be included in the postseason tournament.

“Power seeding will determine the 32 teams in each division,” DiCarlo said. “Teams not seeded in the top 32, but meeting our 50 percent qualifying criteria will also be eligible for the tour-

namment. That was the direct feedback from some of our colleagues that they did not want to lose that 50 percent qualifying standard that we have in our system. Those teams will play in the preliminary round.”

The top four teams in each division will be put into four brackets as top-seeds, which is similar to the NCAA Men’s basketball tournament.

Currently teams are able to qualify for the postseason tournament by using the Sullivan rule. They can also qualify by finishing first or second in their league standings. Those avenues will not be available under the new plan.

MaxPreps, which is owned by CBS Sports, is scheduled to take over rankings and seedings for tournaments beginning in 2020-2021.

Travel, especially on a school night, was one of the major issues discussed at the press conference.

“One superintendent said it best at one of our meetings. He said, ‘I’ll find the money to play a like-sized school rather than having to play a large opponent because they’re prep,’” said O’Leary, who’s the TMC chairman. “We are not really a big state when you look at other states and how they travel and what they do. I know during the regular season I see teams traveling a lot of places in some sports for an 8:20 game and they seem to get there.”

This is what Hart said about teams having to travel across the state to play tournament games.

“It’s not an every-day travel. It’s a one-time deal, or it might be a two-time,” he said. “We’re talking about something and we’re trying to make it bigger for the kids as well.”

All of the tournament games will be held at the higher seeded schools until the state semifinal and finals, which will be held at neutral sites.

Even if the new state tournament plan is passed, there could still be a Western Mass. tournament in most sports during the final week of the regular season. Nothing has been finalized yet.

DEATH NOTICES

Lisowski, Elizabeth A.
Died Jan. 26, 2020
All funeral services are private
Lombard Funeral Home
Monson

Sayward, Donna M. (Heller)
Died Jan. 24, 2020
Funeral Services Feb. 9, 2020
Lombard Funeral Home
Monson

Sikorski, Rober M.
Died Jan. 20, 2020
Celebration of Life Feb. 1, 2020
Second Congregational Church
Palmer

The Journal Register
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.
One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.
The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

O B I T U A R I E S

Elizabeth “Lisa” A. Lisowski

WALES – Elizabeth “Lisa” A Lisowski, 61, passed away Sunday, Jan. 26, 2020, surrounded by the love of family. Lisa was born in Boston, June 29, 1958, to David B. Colville and Twila K. (Umholtz) Colville.

She was a high school graduate and a graduate of STCC with an associate degree as a medical assistant. Lisa was a volunteer for the Monson Senior Center, teaching ceramics for many years. Lisa enjoyed photography and was a member of the Quaboag Hills photo club. Lisa enjoyed being creative with jewelry making and glass fusing.

Her greatest joy came from being a devoted wife, mother and Nana.

Lisa leaves her loving husband, Richard A. Lisowski; three children, Jason Lisowski, and his wife, Karen, of Newtown, Pennsylvania, Nicholas Lisowski, of Avon, Connecticut, and Danielle Lisowski, of Brimfield; her mother, Twila Colville, of Colorado; sisters, Linda Saco Ferry, of Naples, Florida, Karen Colville and Jaime Colville, both of Colorado; and four grandchildren, Willow, Jameson, Emerson Rae and Olivia. Lisa was predeceased by her father, David B.

Colville.

All funeral services are private and have been entrusted to Lombard Funeral Home, of Monson.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to Lyme Disease Research Foundation, LymeMD.org, John Hopkins Rheumatology Lyme Disease Clinical Research Center 2360 W. Joppa Rd., Suite 320, Luther-ville, MD, 21093.

For online condolences please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com.

Donna M. Sayward

MONSON – Donna M. (Heller) Sayward, 60, passed away surrounded by the love of family, Friday Jan. 24, 2020. Donna was born Oct. 2, 1959, in Springfield to the late William J. and Myrtle (Brinson) Heller.

She was a graduate of West Springfield High School and has worked in the insurance industry for 40 years. Most recently Donna worked for Hanover Insurance in the commercial department. Donna enjoyed attending the Hanover Theater, camping and cheering for the Patriots and Bruins. She relaxed with a mys-

tery novel and being with her beloved cat.

Donna leaves her husband of 39 years, Steven A. Sayward; a brother, Everett Heller, and his wife, Elaine, of Sterling; a sister, Marcia Lyons, and her husband, Tom, of San Antonio, Texas; her loved nieces and nephews and great nieces and great nephews, as well as cousins and friends.

The family would like to thank the oncology department at Baystate Medical Center for their care and compassion throughout Donna’s illness.

Services will be held Sun-

day, Feb. 9, 2020, in Lombard Funeral Home, 3 Bridge St., in Monson. Visiting hours will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., with a Celebration of Life at 1 p.m. to conclude Donna’s services. Burial will be held privately in the spring.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Rays of Hope, Baystate Health Foundation 280 Chestnut St, 6th Floor Springfield, MA, 01199.

For online condolences/directions please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com

Robert M. “Bobby” Sikorski

BONDSVILLE – Robert M. “Bobby” Sikorski, 64, of Bondsville, passed away Jan. 20, 2020, at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield. He was born on Aug. 27, 1955, in Northampton, to the late Myron and Virginia (Kapinos) Sikorski.

Bob was raised in Hatfield and moved to Bondsville where he has lived for over 25 years. He retired as an administrative assistant to the chief of medicine in 2011 after working for 35 years from the VA Hospital in Leeds. He was a former volunteer firefighter and deputy chief for the Hatfield Fire Department. Aside from his work, Bob was an avid New England Sports and NASCAR fan. A farmer at heart, he loved gardening and took great pride in caring for his home. He

also enjoyed camping with his family when his children were younger and listening to Polka music every weekend.

He will be deeply missed by his wife of 24 years, Carol (Miller) Sikorski, of Bondsville, and two children, Kimberly “Kim” Sikorski, of Sunderland, and William “Billy” Sikorski, who is currently stationed in Japan with the U.S. Air Force. He will also be missed by his loving step-mother, Dorothy “Doty” Sikorski, brother, Gerry “Bruno” Sikorski, of Hatfield, step-sister, Debbie Galinski, of Ware, and sister-in-law, Karen Sikorski, of Hatfield, along with several nieces and nephews.



Along with his parents, Bob is also predeceased by his brother, Richard “Rich” Sikorski, of Hatfield.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, Feb. 1, at 11 a.m. at the Second Congregational Church in Palmer.

Burial will be at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to the Hatfield Fire Department, 59 Main St., Hatfield, MA, 01038.

Beers & Story Palmer Funeral home was entrusted with the arrangements. For more information please visit www.beersandstory.com.

PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a “people news” form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for The Journal Register, please email dfarmer@turley.com.

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Police/Fire

Police Logs

PALMER

The Palmer Police Department responded to a total of 297 calls from Jan. 15 through Jan. 21. The department made seven arrests or summons. Those arrested will appear at a future date in the Palmer District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

Wednesday, Jan. 22

Thomas E. Herd, of 29 Beacon Dr., Palmer, was arrested at 6:31 a.m., on Beacon Drive in Palmer, on charges of assault and battery on a police officer; disorderly conduct;

Monday, Jan. 27

Lucas Herbert, 24, of 82 Charleston Rd., Acworth, New Hampshire, was arrested at 11:08 p.m., on Jim Ash Street in Bonds-

ville, on charges of operating under the influence of liquor; negligent operation of a motor vehicle; a marked lanes violation; and an unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Craig Bartish, 59, 54 Olney Rd., Thorndike, was arrested at 8:36 p.m., on Thorndike Street in Palmer, on charges of operating under the influence of liquor (3rd offense); and negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

MONSON

The Monson Police Department responded to a total of 168 calls from Jan. 19 through Jan. 24. The department made four arrests or summons. Those arrested will appear at a future date in the Palmer District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

Fire Logs

MONSON

The Monson Fire Department responded to six fire calls and 18 EMS calls for the week of Jan. 20 through Jan. 26.

On Tuesday, Jan. 21, at 9:59 a.m., the department conducted a smoke investigation on 116 Stebbins Rd. The department returned to service at 10:36 a.m.

On Tuesday, Jan. 21, at 12:01 p.m., the department investigated the odor of propane on 115 Main St. The department returned to service at 12:33 p.m.

On Thursday, Jan. 23, at 6:35 a.m., the department provided public assistance on 68 Butler Rd. The department returned to service at 7:00 a.m.

On Thursday, Jan. 23, at 8:08 a.m., the department provided public assistance on 18 Palmer Rd. The department returned to service at 8:45 a.m.

On Friday, Jan. 24, at 3:19 a.m., the department responded to a smoke alarm activation on 3 Bethany Rd. The department returned to service at 3:41 a.m.

On Sunday, Jan. 26, at 8:15 a.m., the department provided public assistance on 68 Butler Rd. The department returned to service at 8:45 a.m.

The Three Rivers Fire Department responded to five calls from Jan. 23 through Jan. 27.

On Thursday, Jan. 23, at 10:01 p.m., the department responded to a motor vehicle accident on Bourne Street. The department returned to service at 11:10 p.m.

On Friday, Jan. 24, at 12:49 p.m., the department responded to an alarm activation on Sykes Street. The department returned to service at 1:09 p.m.

On Friday, Jan. 24, at 6:27 p.m., the department responded to a mutual aid call from the Palmer Fire Department, which was cancelled at 6:27 p.m., the department returned to service at 6:37 p.m.

On Monday, Jan. 27, at 3:41 p.m., the department responded to a chimney fire on Calkins Road. The department returned to service at 4:13 p.m.

On Monday, Jan. 27, at 3:50 p.m., the department responded to

an EMS incident on Calkins Road. The department returned to service at 4:10 p.m.

BONDSVILLE

The Bondsville Fire Department responded to four fire calls for the week of Jan. 21 through Jan. 27.

On Friday, Jan. 24, at 12:49 p.m., the department responded to a mutual aid call on Sykes Street for an alarm activation. The department returned to service at 1:00 p.m.

On Friday, Jan. 24, at 6:28 p.m., the department responded to a mutual aid call on Rivers Street in Thorndike for an animal rescue. The animal was saved, and the department returned to service at 6:37 p.m.

On Friday, Jan. 24, at 10:35 p.m., the department provided medical assistance on State Street. The department returned to service at 10:51 p.m.

On Monday Jan. 27, at 3:41 p.m., the department responded to a mutual aid call to Caulkins Road in Three Rivers for a chimney fire. The department returned to service at 4:09 p.m.

Big Y donates \$215,000 to breast cancer groups

SPRINGFIELD – In order to raise awareness and funds for breast cancer, during the month of October all Big Y supermarkets donated proceeds totaling \$215,742 to breast cancer organizations in Massachusetts and Connecticut as part of its annual “Partners of Hope” campaign.

Local recipients include the MA HMC Breast Health Center at The Pink Way in Ludlow, the

Breast Cancer Program at Survivor Journeys in Longmeadow, Baystate Health Foundation’s Rays of Hope program, Mercy Medical Center’s Mercy Breast Care Center, Cancer-Connection in Northampton, as well as the Women’s Health Care center at Cooley Dickinson Hospital and the Breast Care Center at Johnson Memorial Hospital in Stafford Springs, Connecticut.

“Breast cancer affects thou-

sands of women and more men each year,” Big Y CEO Charles D’Amour said. “Through our Partners of Hope campaign, we want to not only promote breast cancer awareness but also save lives through early detection and care.”

Since 2007, Big Y has raised in excess of \$2 million to support breast cancer initiatives locally.

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T-BIRDS | from page 11

From that point forward, the T-Birds exerted their will. Owen Tippet recorded the first of three points as he turned the left-wing corner and snapped a shot underneath Coreau’s legs to make it 2-1 at 12:32 of the period. Bridgeport would not go quietly, though, as Grant Hutton beat Montembeault

on a long-range wrister at 17:00 to tie the game again, 2-2.

2:10 after that, with less than a minute to go in the period, Dryden Hunt carried the puck into the offensive zone on a 2-on-1 with Adam Rockwood, and after being stopped at first, he snapped a shot home from the bottom of the right circle to put Springfield up for good, 3-2 at 19:10.

After fending off an early Bridgeport push, the T-Birds powered to the finish line with a three-goal

third period, beginning with a strike from Jack Rodewald off a turnover by Coreau at 4:00 to make it 4-2. Then 9 minutes later, Daniel Audette added to the lead, finding a soft spot in the high slot, and firing a turnaround wrister past Coreau to make it 5-2.

In the final minute, Aleksii Saarela iced the game with his 11th goal of the season off a set-up from Tippet. With the three-point night, Tippet heads to his first AHL All-Star Classic with 40 points in his first 46 games.

The Thunderbirds also climbed into the fourth position in the Atlantic Division heading into the All-Star break.

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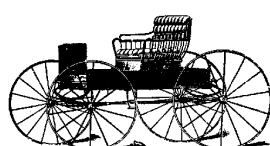
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Fully insured. 15 yrs experience climb-
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AT NOON**

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NORTH BROOKFIELD YOUTH CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITION

Salary Range: \$21-\$25/hour
commensurate on experience
Job Overview: The Executive
Director's main role is to develop,
sustain, and implement after-school
and summer programming for the
North Brookfield Youth Center. This
individual will work with a team of
after-school staff and volunteers in
order to meet program component
requirements as well as student in-
terests and achievement needs.
Responsibilities and Duties:
• Development and facilitation of
after-school and summer program-
ming
• Reporting to and abiding by the
NBVC Board of Directors
• Establishing and maintaining a
positive relationship with school ad-
ministration and personnel
• Attending relevant trainings in or-
der to gain competency and new
techniques for success
• Writing grants to acquire funds and
support for programming
Qualifications:
• Experience working with children
from grades 2-12
• Knowledge of brain-based learn-
ing principles a plus
• Grant writing experience highly
preferred
• Full time with flexible hours re-
quired
If interested, please mail your re-
sume to:
North Brookfield Youth Center,
PO Box 86,
North Brookfield, MA 01535
Or email to: nbaterschool@gmail.com

SALEM CROSS INN now hiring serv-
ers and bartenders. Apply in person or
online at www.salemcrossinn.com

THE TOWN OF GRANBY, MASSACHUSETTS FIRE DEPARTMENT FULL-TIME FIREFIGHTER/ PARAMEDIC

The Granby Fire Department is ac-
cepting applications for the position
of full-time Firefighter/Paramedic. Se-
lected candidate(s) will work a rotat-
ing schedule of 12 hour shifts with 4
days on, 4 days off. The starting salary
range for this position is \$50,000 to
\$54,000 DOE/DOQ
Minimum Qualifications
• Must not smoke tobacco in ac-
cordance with M.G.L.41 Section 101A
• Valid Driver's License
• Min 2 yrs experience as a Paramedic
and full-time or call firefighting
• Ability to pass the Massachusetts
Physical Abilities Test
Preferred Qualifications
Preference will be given to those
that hold the following Firefighter I/II,
Hazmat Awareness/Operations level
certifications.
Successful candidates must reside
within a 15 minute response time to the
station within 12 months of hire. Ap-
plications and required CORI form can
be found at www.granbyfire.org under
the Recruitment Information section.
Applicants are requested to send the
completed application, CORI Form
along with a cover letter and resume
to the following: Chief John E. Mitchell,
Jr., Town of Granby, Fire Department,
259B East State Street, Granby, Mas-
sachusetts 01033

TOWN OF WARREN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT ASSISTANT CHIEF OPERATOR

The Town of Warren Board of Sewer
Commissioners is accepting Applica-
tions for a Wastewater Treatment Plant
Assistant Chief Operator. Salary is in
accordance with the Town's current
wage classification plan.
Applicants must possess a Massachu-
setts Grade 5 Operators License and
valid MA Driver's license.
Job descriptions and applications are
available at the Warren Wastewater
Treatment Plant, 2527 Main Street,
West Warren, MA 01092 The position
will remain open until filled.
Warren is an EOE.

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HILLTOWNS – MONDAY AT NOON

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
Credit Card: ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ Discover ☐ Cash ☐ Check# _____
Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

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Circulation:
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Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

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Buy the Quabbin Village Hills or
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Add a second ZONE **\$10.00**
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x Number of Weeks _____
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REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT



ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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SECTION 8 WELCOME Ware 2 bedroom apts. new kitchen, bath, paint, flooring, appliances, etc. Available ASAP **(413)531-1217**

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SECURE STORAGE HAS opened a brand new facility in Ware behind the Ware Post Office. Call for all your storage needs and our low rates. **413-531-3722**

REAL ESTATE

VACATION RENTALS

WARM WEATHER IS Year Round In Aruba. The water is safe, and the dining is fantastic. Walk out to the beach. 3-Bedroom weeks available. Sleeps 8. Email: carolaction@aol.com for more information.



REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



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Public Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts General Law 105A, for the purpose of satisfying the liens of Apple Self Storage llc, in order to satisfy past due rents and other expenses, the stored goods of the following named people, including household items will be sold at public lien sale at **10:00 AM on February 14, 2020**, on the premises of **Apple Self Storage, 1207 South Main Street, Palmer, MA:**

Martin J. Lamb
1058 Pleasant Street
Apartment 3

Palmer, MA 01069
Cynthia L. Harris
27 State Street
Monson, MA 01057

Justin Sicotte
2011 High Street
Three Rivers, MA 01080

James A. Perry
414 Chestnut Street
Apartment 1232
Springfield, MA 01104

Arthur A. Snow III
2190 Main Street
Warren, MA 01092

Shelby Whalen
Post Office Box 756
Palmer, MA 01069

James H. Baker
Post Office Box 937
Bondsville, MA 01009

Donna Barnes
204 Wales Road
Monson, MA 01057

1/30, 2/06/2020

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Palmer Community Development Director will conduct a Public Hearing on **Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 6:00 PM** in the meeting room of the Town Administration Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA. If Town Hall is closed due to inclement weather on that date, the Public Hearing will be held on Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 6:00 PM instead.

The purpose of this Public Hearing is to solicit input relative to the performance of the FY 19 Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and the development and submission of a grant application under the FY 20 CDBG Program.

The CDBG Program is funded by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development through the use of federal funds under the Housing & Community Development Act of 1974 as amended.

The activities included in the FY 19 CDBG Program are a Housing Rehabilitation Program, sidewalk installation on Fairview Street, and domestic violence services.

Projects currently under consideration for inclusion in Palmer's FY 20 application include: a Housing Rehabilitation Program; design for a new playground/park at Hryniewicz

Park; planning funding to create a housing production plan, and social service programs.

All interested persons, groups, and agencies are invited to attend and participate. Any person or organization so wishing will be afforded the opportunity to be heard. Additional information can be obtained by contacting the Palmer Community Development Department at 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or (413) 283-2614 or sszczebak@townofpalmer.com.

Persons requiring special accommodations should contact the Palmer Community Development Department at least one week prior to the public hearing.

1/30, 2/06/2020

Frontier provides basic residential services for rates from \$21.50 - \$24.99 for flat rate service. Frontier also provides basic business services for rates from \$32.50 - \$38.78. Other taxes, fees, and surcharges may apply. Frontier offers single party service, touch tone, toll blocking, access to long distance, emergency services, operator assistance, and directory assistance. Use of these services may result in additional charges. Budget or economy services also may be available.

Frontier offers Lifeline service which is a nontransferable government assistance program that provides a \$7.25 discount on the cost of monthly telephone service or \$9.25 on eligible broadband or bundled voice and broadband products (where available) and is limited to one discount per household. In addition to Basic Lifeline, individuals living on federally recognized Tribal Lands who meet the eligibility criteria may also qualify for additional monthly discounts through Enhanced Lifeline and up to \$100.00 toward installation fees through the Tribal Link-Up program. You may also qualify for an additional state discount where available.

If you have any questions regarding Frontier's rates or services, please call us at 1-800-FRONTIER for further information or visit us at www.Frontier.com.

1/30/20

CNS-3335387#
PALMER JOURNAL

LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts General Law 105A, for the purpose of satisfying the liens of LaBonte Self Storage, in order to satisfy past due rents and other expenses, the stored goods of the following named people, including household items will be sold at public lien sale at **9:00 AM on February 14, 2020**, on the premises of **LaBonte Self Storage, 250 Wilbraham Street, Palmer, MA:**

Joseph S. Ragno
23 Canal Street
Ware, MA 01082

Todd A. Lavallee
Post Office Box 502
Thorndike, MA 01079

Richard D. Chamberlain
44 Valleyview B
Ware, MA 01082-1647

Michael Mansfield
6 Michael Drive
Thorndike, MA 01079

Sandra Danforth
2378 Main Street
Three Rivers, MA 01080

Heather Korzec
3 Pine View Drive
Monson, MA 01057

Jessica M. Ventura
144 Breckenridge Street
Palmer, MA 01069
1/30, 2/06/2020

(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT 18 SM 007642 ORDER OF NOTICE
To: **Ann L. Misiaszek** and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (*et seq*):
U.S. Bank, National Association, as Trustee for the Certificateholders of the Banc of America Funding Corporation 2008-FTI Trust, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2008-FTI

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Monson, numbered 8 Main Street, given by Ann L. Misiaszek to Fleet National Bank, dated July 14, 2004, and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 14406, Page 572, as affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated July 26, 2017, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 21828, Page 50, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/ have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **February 24, 2020** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of non-compliance with the Act.

Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on January 13, 2020.

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder 18-032905 / FC01
1/30/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD20P0124EA

Estate of: Paul David Mowery Date of Death: 11/30/2019 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by: **Tara M. Mowery** of Palmer, MA of Palmer, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Tara M. Mowery** of Palmer, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Personal Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on 02/19/2020**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 22, 2020

Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
1/30/2020

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain

Mortgage given by **Zoe Ann Riley and Kenneth E. Riley** to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Mortgage Master, Inc., its successors and assigns, dated August 20, 2008 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 17440, Page 48 as affected by a Loan Modification recorded on November 18, 2014 in Said Registry of Deeds at Book 20503, Page 120, subsequently assigned to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. by Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Mortgage Master, Incorporated, its successors and assigns by assignment recorded in said Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 19128, Page 102 for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at **3:00 PM on February 6, 2020** at 129 Stafford Road, Monson, MA, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit: The land and buildings in Monson, Hampden County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows: Lot A as shown on a plan of land entitled "Plan of Land in Monson, MA prepared for John G. & Louis E. Costello" dated October 8, 2004, Minuteman Engineering, West Brookfield, MA and recorded in the Hampden District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 336, Plan 123. Being the same premises conveyed to the Mortgagors herein by deed recorded herewith. The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney's fees and costs.

TERMS OF SALE:
A deposit of FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$5,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or money order will be required to be delivered at or before the time the bid is offered. The successful bidder will be required to execute a Foreclosure Sale Agreement immediately after the close of the bidding. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or other check satisfactory to Mortgagee's attorney. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a

return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. Present Holder of said Mortgage,

By Its Attorneys,
ORLANDS PC
PO Box 540540
Waltham, MA 02454
Phone: (781) 790-7800
19-008310
1/16, 1/23, 1/30/2020

LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts General Law 105A, for the purpose of satisfying the liens of **Shed Rent.com llc**, in order to satisfy past due rents and other expenses, the stored goods of the following named people, including household items will be sold at public lien sale at **10:00 AM on February 14, 2020**, on the premises of **Apple Self Storage, 1207 South Main Street, Palmer, MA:**

Kathy L. Brothers
1025 Central Street Unit H
Palmer, MA 01069
1/30, 2/06/2020

TOWN OF PALMER REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR SIDEWALK DESIGN ON FAIRVIEW STREET

The Town of Palmer, through its Community Development Department, is seeking proposals for professional services for the design of sidewalks on Fairview Street. The project will include removing the existing sidewalks along the western side of Fairview Street from Shearer Street to Searle Street, and replacing with new sidewalks. New sidewalks (where none currently exist) will be constructed along the western side of Fairview Street from Searle Street to Fletcher Street. Services under this request will include surveying existing conditions, including but not limited to, identifying the right of way, abutting property lines to the right of way, topography (with spot grades), surface utilities, road curb line, road center line, site details, trees & vegetation; as well as researching existing easements, determining what easements are needed and preparing all documents necessary for the new easements. The selected firm will insure that the new sidewalks will comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations (including the Americans with Disabilities

Act) and requesting variances as needed. The design firm will be responsible for preparing bid-ready plans and specifications. The firm selected for the project shall have a minimum of 5 years of experience in the design, permitting, contract administration, and construction observation of sidewalk reconstruction projects. All work under this contract must be completed by July 15, 2020.

The entire proposal (technical and price proposals) must be submitted no later than **2:00 PM on Tuesday, February 18, 2020**. The Town of Palmer reserves the sole right to review the Proposals submitted, waive any irregularities therein, and to select or reject any or all submissions deemed by the Town of Palmer to be in its best interest.

For complete requirements for proposals, please contact Sarah Szczebak at sszczebak@townofpalmer.com.
1/31, 2/06/2020

LEGAL NOTICE PALMER TOWN COUNCIL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Palmer Town Council will hold a public hearing on **February 10, 2020 at 6:30 PM** in the Palmer Administration Building, 4417 Main St, Palmer on proposed Ordinance 2020-02, adding an amendment to CHAPTER 106 LICENSES AND PERMITS. Sections 37 and 38 of Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016, the Municipal Modernization Act, amended the statute to provide significant additional flexibility to cities and towns. Previously, permits and licenses could be denied or revoked only if taxes or other charges were unpaid "for not less than a twelve - month period," greatly limiting a municipality's ability to require applicants to be current on such obligations. The 2016 revisions eliminated the twelve - month waiting period and further allow the municipal treasurer to periodically, rather than annually, certify to permitting or licensing authorities the names of persons, corporations or business enterprises that have outstanding unpaid taxes or other charges. This amendment eliminates the waiting period and adds the tax Collector may also periodically furnish updated lists to departments who issue licenses and permits.

Anyone wishing to be heard should appear at the time and place designated above.

Palmer Town Council
1/23, 1/30/2020

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS (SEAL)

LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT Docket 20 SM 000346 ORDER OF NOTICE TO:

Richard M. Zola AKA Richard Zola ; Sheri L. Gaulin AKA Sheri Gaulin and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C.c. 50 §3901 (*et seq*):

U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., as Trustee for LSF9 Master Participation Trust,

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in **Brimfield**, numbered **19 Five Bridge Road**, given by **Richard M. Zola aka Richard Zola and Sheri L. Gaulin aka Sheri Gaulin** to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for **ABC Mortgage Corp., its successors and assigns, dated March 13, 2006, and recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 15768, Page 589**, and now held by plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **March 9, 2020** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of non-compliance with the Act.

Witness, **GORDON H. PIPER** Chief Justice of this Court on January 22, 2020

Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
(19-012360 Orleans)
1/30/2020

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Have a church listing for the Palmer, Monson, Wales, Brimfield, and Holland area published here, please send the information to: The Journal Register, Attn. Douglas Farmer, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069; or by e-mail at dfarmer@turley.com.

WALES BAPTIST CHURCH located at 23 Main St., Wales Will have music by the Praise and Worship Group on Sundays from 9-9:45 a.m. Sunday service is at 10 a.m., Bible studies are held on Sunday at 9 a.m. and Wednesday at 7 p.m. Ladies Bible study is Tuesday at 10 a.m. A St. Patrick's Day Croned Beef Dinner will be Saturday, March 16 at 4 p.m. A Strawberry Music Missions Festival is held in June and the Annual Share Fair is Oct. 5, 2019.

DIVINE MERCY PARISH, located at the former Sts. Peter & Paul Church on Main Street in Three Rivers offers Holy Mass on these days and times. The Lord's Day: Saturday Vigils at 4 and 5:15 p.m.; Sunday at 8 a.m. (in Polish) and 9:30 a.m.; Daily Masses (except Tuesday) at 8 a.m.; Tuesday preceded by Miraculous Medal and Our Lady of Czestochowa Novena at 5:30 p.m.; Holy days at 8 a.m. and either 5:30 or 7 p.m.; Seasonal Devotions in Lent, May and October. Pastor is Rev. Stefan Niemczyk, and Permanent Deacon is Rev. Mr. John Fox.

SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, 1080 Pleasant St., Palmer, welcomes believers, seekers, and visitors. Traditional, friendly Sunday services at 10 a.m. value every participant, featuring varied musical offerings and meaningful messages relevant to today's world. We seek participation of children in our services and Sunday School, with Child Care also available. Fellowship Times after each service offer delicious snacks with opportunities to chat with others. Videotaped recordings on Sundays available at 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Cable Channel 15. Discover some true values in our Thrift Shop (Fri/Sat, 10-2). Contact us at 283-5206, secondchurchpalmer.org, Palmer UCC Church on Facebook, or second.church@verizon.net. Visit occasionally or find your spiritual home – your choice!

ST. PATRICK'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH at 22 Green St. in Monson will hold Masses on Saturdays at 4 p.m. and Sundays at 8:30 a.m., Miraculous Medal No-

vena on Tuesdays at 8 a.m. and St. Peregrine Novena on Fridays at 7 p.m. Also recently added is Divine Mercy Chaplet on Fridays at 3 p.m. Pastor is Fr. John J. Brennan. For more information call 267-3622 or visit stpatrickmonson.org.

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH has moved to Monson, at 125 Main St. (back of Norcross House). Services will be held on Sundays at 9 and 11 a.m., with a children's church lesson during the 11 a.m. service. Food and fellowship follow the service. On Wednesday night, there will be a prayer and worship service at 6 p.m. The Grace Cafe Open Mic Night will be held the last Friday of every month at 7 p.m. Contact Pastor Larry Desreuisseau with questions at 413-559-1618.

NEW BIRTH CHRISTIAN CHURCH at 29 Church St. in Thorndike (across from the post office) would like to invite you to their regular services: Sunday Morning Worship and Children's Church are held at 11 a.m. (A nursery is provided for all services). For more info, call the Rev. William Webb at 283-5130.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, 20 Main St., P.O. Box 203, Brimfield hosts weekly worship each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. with Pastor Dawn Adams. A free community breakfast is offered before services at 9:30 a.m. and coffee hour follows worship. For more information on the church, services and activities, call 413-245-7162, or visit www.brimfielducc.org.

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, at the corner of Park and Pleasant streets in Ware, will hold regular worship services each Sunday at 10 a.m. with church school for children at 9:15 a.m. For more information call Rev. Mary Rosendale at 413-967-6100.

CROSSWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH at 2230 Main St., Three Rivers, holds a relevant, doctrinally sound and friendly place of worship for the entire family with Pastors Dennis and Heather Marais. Sunday Services at 10 a.m. and Children's Church at 10 a.m. Lunch is served after the Sunday service. Join us for E.P.I.C. (Endless Possibilities In Christ), every first and third Friday of the month. The doors are open for all youth, ages 12 to 18 or sixth to 12th grade. The youth zone will offer a variety of

free play areas and group gaming, including air hockey, ping pong, corn hole and craft zone, as well as a group message from the Word of God. For more info, call 413-297-5488, email crosswayusa@comcast.net or visit www.facebook.com/crosswaypalmer or www.TheCrossway.org.

ST. CHRISTOPHER ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH at 16 Sturbridge Road in Brimfield holds Masses on Saturday at 6 p.m. and Sunday at 10:30 a.m., weekday Masses at 9 a.m. on Monday and Wednesday, with the Miraculous Medal Novena and Adoration following Wednesday's Mass. Pastor is Father John "Jack" J. Brennan who is also the pastor for St. Patrick's in Monson. For more information call 413-245-7274 or email stchrisbrimfield@gmail.com.

MONSON-GLENDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH at the corner of Main & Cushman streets in Monson invites you to worship on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. Child Care is provided. Sunday School from pre-school through senior high begins at 9:45 a.m. To learn more, contact the Rev. Ira Cameron at 267-3798 or email m-gumc@verizon.net or visit umcmg.org.

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH at 251 Shearer St. in Palmer invites the public to the following weekly services: Sunday morning Bible school at 9:30 a.m., Sunday worship at 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. Wednesday night Grow Ministry at 6:30 p.m. Child care is provided during all services as well as children's church for age 4 to 10 during Sunday morning services. Services may be seen Sundays at 12:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. on cable TV channel 15 as well as a program titled "Reflections" at 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. A radio broadcast, "Melodies of Faith," airs over WARE 1250 AM each Sunday morning at 7:05 a.m. For more information, call 283-7560 or visit faithbaptistchurchpalmer.com.

ST. PAUL'S UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH at the corner of Park and Central streets in Palmer has welcomed Rev. Rae Perteet and his wife Kimberly. The church invites you every Sunday morning at 10 a.m. for worship services. A time of fellowship and refreshments follows the service at 11 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Funday School for children ages 4 to 11 will be held at 10 a.m. Come as you are an join the free flow of ideas and ideals that is Unitarian Universalism. There is a place for you here.

For more information call 413-283-8185 or email stpaulsuuchurch@gmail.com or visit www.uuchurch-palmer.org or on Facebook at "St. Paul's Unitarian Universalist Church of Palmer."

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST PARISH OF MONSON located at 177 Main St., Monson holds services on Sundays at 10 a.m., starting on the first Sunday after Labor Day through the third Sunday in June. Guest ministers and lay leaders lead services. All are welcome to attend for food and fellowship after services. Unitarian Universalism nurtures those of widely different beliefs to pursue beloved community and a world where all people experience dignity and worth. For more information, visit uupm.org.

THE FIRST CHURCH OF MONSON, Congregational/United Church of Christ, at 5 High St. in Monson invites you to regular worship services which are held Sunday mornings at 10 a.m., followed by a time of fellowship and refreshments. A free breakfast is served each Sunday from 8 to 9:45 a.m. from mid-September to mid-June (donations are accepted but not required). Everyone is welcome. Sunday School and nursery care are offered during worship from the second Sunday in September through mid-June. Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. For more information, please call 413-267-3312, visit www.firstchurchmonson.org, email office@firstchurchmonson.org, find the church on Facebook at www.facebook.com/firstchurchmonson.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH located at 1076 Thorndike Ma. Fr. Richard M. Turner, Pastor Tel. 283-5091, email: sttompal@comcast.net. Masses are: Mon through Fri. @ 9:00 am, Sat. 4:30 pm, Sun. 8:30am and 11:00am. Holydays @ 9:00 am and 6:00 pm. Confessions: Sat. 3:30 pm- 4:10 pm or by appointment. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Mondays. 9:30 am to 1pm. Miraculous Medal Novena Tuesdays @9:30 am. Every 2nd Saturday of the Month a Parish Family and Friends homemade dinner is served at 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm all in our community are invited to please join us, free will donations are accepted and appreciated.**SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH**, at 1050 Thorndike St., Palmer invites the community each Sunday at 10

a.m. for atime of worship, fellowship and prayer. There is Bible Study every Thursday at the church at 2 p.m. For more information contact the church at 413-289-6464 or 2nd-baptistchurch@comcast.net.

BETHANY CHARISMATIC CATHOLIC CHURCH at 167 Dunhamtown Road in Brimfield (www.bethanyccc.org). Masses are Saturday at 4 p.m., Sunday at 9 a.m. and Wednesday at 6 p.m., followed by night prayer. Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment. For more information or to speak to a member of the clergy call 413-324-1164 and leave a message. Come join us in worship of our great and loving God.

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH, 9 East Brimfield/Holland Road, Brimfield offers Sunday morning service at 11 a.m., with Sunday Bible study at 9:45 a.m., and Wednesday evening prayer service at 6:30 p.m. Small group bible studies, youth and children activities available. Call Pastor Dave Pettis at 413-245-1275 or visit www.friendshipma.com, if interested in more information.

HOLLAND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH at 11 Sturbridge Road has two morning worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. with Sunday School for all ages at 10 a.m. We also gather every Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. for men's and women's Bible studies, prayer services, youth group and Kids for Christ ministries. We offer nursery care for all our services. Call the church office for more information at 413-245-9926 or visit the Web site at www.HollandChurch.org.

QUABBIN VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH at 258 Malboeuf Road, Ware offers services on Sundays including adult prayer at 9 a.m., adult Bible study and children's Sunday school at 10 a.m., morning worship at 11 a.m. and evening worship at 6 p.m. There is also women's Bible study on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. The church is one where the Bible and church are real and relevant, with sincere Christian fellowship, practical Bible teaching and personable leadership. For more information, call 413-668-7041, e-mail quabbinvalleybaptist@gmail.com or visit www.quabbinvalleybaptist.com.

The benefits of local newspapers

Local newspapers play vital roles in communities across the globe. The Information Age has changed the way many people get their news, but local newspapers continue to serve as valuable resources for readers interested in learning more about and becoming more involved in their communities.

While local publishers continue to adapt to the changes brought about by technology, the following are a handful of benefits unique to local newspapers.

- **Local newspapers keep readers up-to-date on their own communities.** Globalization may be here to stay, but that does not mean local communities are no longer home to newsworthy events. National and international newspapers and 24-hour cable news channels can keep men and women up-to-date on national and world news, but in many instances, local newspapers are the only means people have to learn about what's going on in their own communities. Local politics impact residents' lives every day, and local newspapers cover local politics extensively.

- **Local newspapers benefit nearby businesses.** Small business owners often connect with community members via local newspapers. A strong, locally based small business community can improve economies in myriad ways, creating jobs in the community and contributing tax dollars that can be used to strengthen local schools and infrastructure. And local newspapers do their part by providing affordable and effective advertising space to local business owners looking to connect with their communities.

- **Local newspapers can strengthen communities.** Local newspapers are great resources for residents who want to become more active in their communities and learn more about community events. Local newspapers often showcase community events like carnivals, local theater productions and projects like park cleanups. These are great ways for readers to become more active in their communities and build stronger communities as a result.

- **Local newspapers can benefit children.** National newspapers may have



little age-appropriate content to offer young children, but local newspapers tend to include more soft news items than national periodicals, and such stories typically are appropriate for young readers. According to Newspapers in Education, students who participated in an NIE group in Florida performed significantly better in spelling and vocabulary

than nonreaders. Additional studies have indicated that students who use newspapers in the classroom perform better on standardized reading tests than those who do not use newspapers in class.

Many local newspapers have played vital roles in their communities for decades, providing a go-to resource for local readers and business owners.

13 Weekly Newspapers Serving The Local Communities

Agawam Advertiser News • Barre Gazette • Chicopee Register • Country Journal

Journal Register • Quaboag Current • The Register • Sentinel • The Sun

Town Reminder • Ware River News • Wilbraham Times • Shopping Guide

800.824.6548 • www.newspapers.turley.com



Community CALENDAR

E-mail items to dfarmer@turley.com or mail to Calendar Editor, Journal Register, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, for receipt by Monday of week for publication.

NOW

INTERESTED IN QUILTING?

The Quaboag Valley Quilters Guild is looking for new members. The Guild meets on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Thursdays of the month at 1 p.m. in the basement of the Palmer Historical and Cultural Center, 2072 Main St., Three Rivers. The Guild is a no pressure group with varying degrees of accomplishments, from novice to Big E “Best In Show” winners. The membership fee is \$48 a year. For more information, contact Barbara Beaulieu at 267-4044 or Merry Mombourquette at 283-7577. Follow us on Facebook.

CHURCH CABOOSE THRIFT SHOP at Second Congregational Church, 1080 Pleasant St., Palmer has bargains on clothing, household items, linens, books, crafts and more. Come and see Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 283-6958 for more information.

THE MONSON LIONS CLUB has a 20-foot x 20-foot tent for rent. The cost is \$75 for a two-day event. The club will put it up and take it down. For more details, contact Curt at 413-668-6653.

DAY SPRING LODGE A.F. & A.M. located 14 Bliss St., Monson is making its hall available for rent for \$75 for a variety of parties and functions. For reservations,, call Doug Battige at 413-267-5855 or 413-265-9398.

RESERVE YOUR CELEBRATION TENT now for your First Communion, bridal and baby showers, graduation parties, family reunions, birthday parties or any other kind of celebration you may have outdoors. The Palmer Lions Club has a tent for you, either 20-feet x 20-feet for \$125 or 20-feet x 40-feet for \$200. This includes setup and takedown in the Palmer area. Call Karen at 413-813-8445 to make a reservation. You may need to leave a message and your call will be returned. The Palmer Lions Club tent rental fees go towards assistance for the people of Palmer, Bondsville, Three Rivers and Thorndike.

MONSON WOODWACKERS wood carving club will meet every Thursday at Memorial Hall, 198 Main St., Monson from 6-8 p.m. The club meets throughout the year. Membership is \$10 for the year, payable in September. Anyone interested should call Barbara Mackintosh at 413-237-8303. There are many beginner projects and experienced teachers, as well, within the club.

STAINED GLASS MAKING CLASS will be held on Thursdays at the Holland Community Center from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. or 6-9 p.m. Glass and tools are supplied. Take six classes for \$48. Class sizes are limited and are open to all ages. For more information call Tom Baltazar at 508-245-2525.

PALMER SALVATION ARMY Service Extension Unit offers residents in Palmer and Brimfield emergency assistance on a periodic basis. The outreach coordinator will be located on the second floor of St. Paul’s Unitarian Universalist Church at 1060 Central St., Palmer. You must schedule an appointment by calling 413-221-8283 so you know what documentation to bring since those seeking assistance have to meet certain criteria and show proof of need. Please leave your name, number and the date you called. Phone messages are checked weekly, not daily.

MONSON SALVATION ARMY Service Extension Unit offers residents in Monson and bordering towns emergency assistance on a periodic basis including funds for fuel and utilities, food, clothing, diapers, furniture and prescriptions. Clients can meet the second Monday of each month (if that date falls on a holiday, it will be the following week) from 12:30-2:30 p.m. at the Monson Senior Center, 106 Main St., Monson. To schedule an appointment, call 267-4121 so you know what documentation to bring.

BOOKSTORE at the Unitarian Universalist Parish of Monson at the corner of Lincoln and Main streets in Monson is open the first Friday of every month from 5:30-7:30 p.m., the third Saturday of every month from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Books priced from 25 cents to \$1 each: fiction, nonfiction, thrillers, horror, mystery, science fiction, how-to, classic literature, children’s books, romances, cookbooks, gardening books and more. All proceeds benefit the parish. Donations are accepted. Call Mary at 267-0033 for more information.

MARTHA’S TABLE STAFF at the Monson-Glendale United Methodist

Church is supporting the Monson Open Pantry by providing a meal once a month to anyone who will bring a non-perishable food item. Staff have begun packing and delivering the meals in cooperation with the Monson Senior Center. The meal is served at the church, 162 Main St., Monson on the third Saturday of each month from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. For more information call 267-3798.

SENIOR LUNCHEON. The Monson Council on Aging invites seniors over age 60 to its luncheon program every Monday – Friday at the Monson Senior Center, 106 Main St., Monson. Home cooked meals are always served at noon. The requested donation of \$2.50 includes the entrée, bread, dessert and beverage. Menus are available in the COA newsletter. Luncheon reservations must be made by 2:30 p.m. the day before you would like to come to lunch. For more info or van reservations, call 267-4121.

GAME NIGHT will be held at Top Floor Learning at the Palmer Public Library the second Tuesday of each month: Sept. 10, Oct. 8, Nov. 12 and Dec. 10 (2019) and Jan. 14, Feb. 11 and March 10 (2020) from 6-7:45 p.m. There is no fee or registration required, and attendants must be 16 years of age or older unless accompanied by an adult. Games include Scrabble, Cribbage, Monopoly, Rummy, Chess, Checkers, Uno, Yahtzee, Bridge, Skipbo, Crazy 8’s, Hearts, Dominos, etc. Attendees may bring their own. For more information call 283-2329 or email palewis19@yahoo.com.

MAKE A DONATION to the Monson Free Library in honor of a special person or family member, in the form of a book, DVD or CD, audio book or magazine subscription. The person will receive a letter informing them of your gift. The cost of donations is \$25 for a book, \$20 for a CD or DVD, \$100 for an audio book and \$20 for a magazine subscription. For more information call 267-3866.

THURSDAY, JAN. 30

SOCIAL SECURITY QUESTIONS Edward Jones will answer questions about social security on Thursday, Jan. 30, at 5:30 p.m., at the Palmer Public Library, 1455 N. Main St. in Palmer. There will be a presentation that includes how Social Security fits into peoples’ retirement income plans, when to take benefits and information regarding taxes. Those who would like to attend are asked to please call 413-289-1875 by Jan. 23.

SATURDAY, FEB. 22

TURKEY DINNER The Palmer Lions Club will hold a turkey dinner on Saturday, Feb. 22, at 6 p.m., at the Second Congregational Church, 1080 Pleasant St., in Plamer. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for children six and under. For tickets call 413-283-5782.

ONGOING

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP Please join us at 6 p.m. every first Thursday of the month at Palmer Healthcare Center, 250 Shearer St. Palmer. Light refreshments will be served Contact Kate Martin at 413-283-8361 for more information.

CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED - Who is Jesus? What did he achieve? How should we respond? “Christianity Explored” is a study which seeks to answer these questions from the Gospel of Mark. The course involves seven weekly one-hour sessions using Bible study, related DVD viewing, and discussion of the pertinent passages. For more information contact Mal at 413-267-5025.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES at the Brimfield Senior Center, located in the First Congregational Church, 20 Main St., Brimfield include strength training classes on Mondays and Thursdays from 9-10 a.m.; Tai Chi on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9-10 a.m.; gentle arthritis and chair yoga combo classes on Tuesdays at 10 a.m.; bingo on the second and fourth Wednesday of the monthly (\$1 per card, 25 cents per game, cover-all price \$10); There is a suggested donation of \$2 for 55 and up and \$3 for under 55. Lunch is served on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with reservations required by 11 a.m. on the previous day. There is a \$2 suggested donation. Planning, crocheting and knitting is offered

the first Friday of each month and massage with Vicki is offered the third Tuesday of the month from 9:15-11:15 a.m., by appointment only. The cost is \$5 for 10 minutes and \$15 for 20 minutes. For more information call 413-245-7253.

KEEP HOMESTEAD MUSEUM is closed for winter and will re-open on April 5, 2020 at 35 Ely Rd., Monson. Nature trails are open daily for hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. New trail maps can be found in the parking lot. The Phillips Sculpture Garden is open year-round (handouts in box on one of the sign posts) For more information call 413-267-4137, email khh@keephomesteadmuseum.org or visit www.keephomesteadmuseum.org

BAYSTATE WING AUXILIARY GIFT SHOP sells unique merchandise at reasonable prices. Gift shop hours are Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. with some weekend hours extended during the holidays. All proceeds benefit the Baystate Wing Hospital, a major part of the community, and provide scholarships to seniors graduating from local high schools. Call 413-370-8169 for more information.

MONSON DEMOCRATS WANTED by the Monson Democratic Town Committee that holds meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Polish American Citizens Club, 7 Bliss St., Monson at 7 p.m.

HAVE YOU HAD A BABY RECENTLY? If you are living in the Palmer, Monson or surrounding communities and you have a newborn baby, call the Palmer Monson Family Network at 283-6246 to get your free canvas bag packing with information for you and practical goodies for your baby. The Family Network, a Collaborative for Educational Services program, is funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

PLAY & LEARN DROP-IN TIME is happening throughout the school year at the Palmer Monson Family Network on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10-11:30am. The free playgroup includes free play time, snack and circle time and is open to all families and caregivers and their children from 0-5 years old. All PMFN programs are free. The PMFN is located at 4 Springfield St. in Three Rivers and is a program of the Collaborative of Educational Services and receives funding from the Mass. Department of Early Education and Care. For more information call 283-6246.

INFANT AND TODDLER TIME at the Palmer Monson Family Network is available for families with little ones from 0-24 months of age. The free program happens throughout the school year on Wednesdays from 9-10:30 a.m. and provides a fun environment for families and caregivers to connect with others with young children. Snack and circle time are included. Call 283-6246 for more information.

HOLLAND COMMUNITY CENTER, 40 Brimfield Holland, has announced the following recurring events: Stay Fit classes with Sharon on Mondays at 9:30 a.m., Dance Fit with Alice on Tuesdays at 6 p.m., Low Impact Workout with Debbie Sichel on Wednesdays at 10 a.m., Yoga with Sharon on Wednesdays at 5 p.m. and Tai Chi with David Masera every other Thursday at 10 a.m. For more information call 413-245-3163.

STORYTELLING WITH COLLEEN LOWE-SMITH at the Brimfield Senior Center, located in the First Congregational Church, 20 Main St., Brimfield, Mondays at 10:30 a.m. In this group, participants will reflect together on life experiences and practice the art of listening as well as telling. Celebrate one another’s unique stories, inspire one another, create empathy, discover wisdom, and provoke one another to reflect more deeply on one’s own experiences. Participants are welcome to just listen or to tell a story. There is no cost for this program. Call 413-245-7253 for further information.

FRIDAY ZUMBA CLASSES are offered at the Palmer Senior Center, 1029 Central St., Palmer, on Fridays at 9:30 a.m. Zumba Fitness is a Latin-inspired cardio-dance workout that uses music and choreographed steps to form a fitness party atmosphere. People of all ages, shapes and sizes are welcome. Erin Wallace, certified Zumba Fitness instructor, gauges abilities and makes sure everyone exercises safely. The fee is \$25 for five classes or \$7 for drop-in. For more information, contact Wallace at 413-668-7284 or wallacee413@gmail.com.

ELBOW PLANTATION HISTORICAL SOCIETY meets the second Thursday

of every month (except July, August, January and February) in the community room of the Palmer Public Library, 1455 North Main St., Palmer from 2-4 p.m.

KIDS’ CHESS CLUB is hosted at the Palmer Public Library, 1455 North Main St., Palmer on Tuesday afternoons in the community room from 4-5 p.m. All ages are welcome, including kindergarten through grade 12, families and adults. There is no need to sign-up. For more information contact William Nolte at 413-596-9021.

DIAMOND NATIONAL/CASCADES DIAMOND. Did you every work there? Former employees meet on the third Tuesday of every month at Burgundy Brook Restaurant on Route 181 in Palmer from 9-10 a.m. The stories shared are often colorful but old friendships are renewed.

TICK TALK – A Lyme disease support group of Monson will meet at Grace Community Church at the Norcross House, 125 Main St., Monson the last Saturday of every month from 10 a.m.-noon. The group can be found online at facebook.com/monsonlymesupport/ or monsonlymesupport.com.

FREE PLAYGROUP sponsored by Union 61 Family Foundation Five Grant at Hitchcock Free Academy in Brimfield. Music and Movement on Wednesday, 9-9:45 a.m. and Playgroup on Monday and Thursday 9-11 a.m. For more information, visit www.hitchcockacademy.org or call 413-245-9977.

A NEW, ONGOING ACA (Adult Children of Alcoholic/Dysfunctional Families) will be held on Friday nights at the First Church of Monson, 5 High St., Monson. ACA is a 12-step support group for adults raised in an alcoholic or otherwise dysfunctional family. “Another Way to Live” will meet at 6:30 p.m. Voluntary donations only.

WEEKLY CLASSES at Holland Community Center, 40 Brimfield Road, Holland. Mondays and Wednesdays lunch is served at noon, reservations required by calling 413-245-3163 and a \$2 donation is requested. Mondays at 10 a.m. is yoga class with Mah Jongg, and Monday evenings at 6 p.m. is Texas Hold ‘Em. Tuesdays at 10 a.m. is the Coffee Social which is open to everyone, and Open Crafts are held on Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Zumba is held on Wednesdays at 10 a.m., Mah Jongg is at 1 p.m. and Yoga is at 5 p.m., plus Pitch at 6:30 p.m. Stained glass is every Thursday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. and Cribbage is weekly on Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. Walking Club is on Thursdays at 4 p.m. The Billiard Room is open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. For everyone. For more information, call 413-245-3163.

MONTHLY CLASSES at Holland Community Center, 40 Brimfield Road, Holland. Cards Against Humanity on the third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. and Magic the Gathering on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information call 413-245-3163.

CARD AND/OR BOARD GAMES will be offered at the Brimfield Senior Center, located in the First Congregational Church, 20 Main St., Brimfield, on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 10:30 a.m.-noon. Light snacks and beverages will be provided. A \$1 donation is suggested. For more information call 413-245-7253.

MONDAY ZUMBA CLASSES are offered at Memorial Town Hall, 198 Main St., Monson, on Mondays at 8:30 a.m., sponsored by the Monson Parks and Recreation Department. Zumba Fitness is a Latin-inspired cardio-dance workout that uses music and choreographed steps to form a fitness party atmosphere. People of all ages, shapes and sizes are welcome. Erin Wallace, certified Zumba Fitness instructor, gauges abilities and makes sure everyone exercises safely. The fee is \$30 for five classes or \$8 for drop-ins. For more information, contact Wallace at 413-668-7284 or wallacee413@gmail.com.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS is a nonprofit fellowship or society of men and women for whom drugs had become a major problem. The group is comprised of recovering addicts who meet regularly to help each other stay clean. Local meetings are held every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. at The Living Room of Trinity Episcopal Church, 17 Park St., Ware; every Monday at 7 p.m. at St. Patrick’s Church, 22 Green St., Monson; Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at the Belchertown United Congregational Church, 18 Park St., Belchertown; every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. and the Palmer Historical & Cultural Cen-

ter, 2072 Main St., Three Rivers; and every Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Second Congregational Church, 1080 Pleasant St., Palmer. For more information or to find additional meetings throughout the New England area, visit www.nerna.org.

FREE MUSIC AND MOVEMENT CLASS at Hitchcock Free Academy in Brimfield. All ages are welcome in this free program sponsored by Union 61 Family Foundation 5, held on Wednesdays, 9-9:45 a.m.; no programs during school vacations or holidays. Listen and move to music and create some of your own. The instructor is Jenn Gagnon. For more information, call Patti Sinko at 508-867-2232 or email sinkop@tantasqua.org.

NEW MUSEUM PASSES are available at the Monson Free Library, 2 High St., Monson. The Friends of the Monson Free Library have renewed the list of museum passes which include free or discounted admission to area attractions like the Connecticut Science Museum, MassMOCA, New England Air Museum, Worcester Art Museum and the Wadsworth Athenaeum. Old favorites that are still available include the Eric Carle Museum, Massachusetts state parks, Mystic Aquarium, Smith College Museum of Art, Springfield Museums and the USS Constitution.

PRE-SCHOOL STORY TIME will be held at the Monson Free Library, 2 High St., every Wednesday morning at 10:30 a.m. Join the group for stories, crafts and silliness. No registration is needed and all are welcome.

BOUNCE AND RHYME BABY TIME will be held at the Monson Free Library, 2 High St., every Friday morning at 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and rhymes for children up to 2 ½. No registration is required and all are welcome.

PALMER FOOD SHARE, INC., an emergency food pantry, is open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:30-11:15 a.m. Food Share is located at 39 Walnut St. in Palmer. Call 283-3614 with questions or to order to pick up food.

FAMILY MUSEUM PASSES are available from the Palmer Public Library. Use your library card to borrow passes to area museums for free or reduced admission to regular museum exhibits at locations like Boston Museum of Science, Ecotarium, Eric Carle Museum, Holyoke Children’s Museum, Mass Audubon, Mass. State Parks, Mystic Aquarium, Normal Rockwell Museum, Salem Witch Museum, Springfield Library & Museums and the U.S.S. Constitution. Passes may be reserved ahead for a specific day by calling the library at 283-3330 ext. 0 or at www.palmer.lib.mas.us.

AL-ANON FRIDAY NIGHT BOOK STUDY meetings - a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience, strength and hope in order to solve our common problems. We believe alcoholism is a family illness and that changed attitudes can aid recovery. Al-Anon has one purpose, to help families and friends of alcoholics. The group meets Fridays at Second Congregational Church, 1080 Pleasant St., Palmer from 6:30-7:30 p.m. a

QUILTERS OF MONSON meet every Tuesday, 1-4 p.m. at Columbia Hall, across from St. Patrick’s Church in Monson at 22 Green St. Experienced and beginner quilters get together to work on projects, exchange idea, provide help and encouragement in a friendly and fun atmosphere. For more information call Wendy Skillman at 413-355-0305 or email WendySkill@hotmail.com or go to ‘Monson Quilts’ on Facebook.

STAINED GLASS CLASSES at the Holland Senior Center are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 6:30 to 9 p.m. Tai Chi (Qui Chong) with Dave Masera has moved to Monday mornings at 9:00 a.m. Power Yoga on Thursday nights has ended and will resume in the Fall. Movie Night has also returned to the center and will commence on Thursdays in May. For more information contact the center at 413-245-3163.

NURSE DONNA BROWN, RN, of Professional Medical Services, will be at the Palmer Senior Center the first Wednesday of each month from 9 a.m.-noon and every Friday from 9-11 a.m. for blood pressure screenings, blood glucose screenings and to help you with any questions about your medications or other health issues. No appointment is necessary.

BSA Troop 5164 has great first year



BSA Troop 5164 members Sarah Dee, Madison Williams, Kathleen Day, Emily Prouty during the Klondike Derby.



BSA Troop 5164 at Moses Scout Reservation Summer Camp this past summer.

PALMER — In their first year as BSA Scouts the girls of Troop 5164 have accomplished many great things. The Scouts have worked hard advancing in ranks including Second Class, First Class and Star. They have earned 24 merit badges all together. Many of the badges were earned while enjoying their first summer camp experience together. The girls have also contributed many hours of their time to serve the community. The girls most recently competed in their first Klondike Derby finishing it in first place. They are looking forward to the many accomplishments year two will bring them.

BSA Troop 5164 member Maddi Williams tries archery at Moses Scout Reservation Summer Camp this past summer.



Kathleen Day and Scott Day, of BSA Troop 5164, becoming Order of the Arrowmen.



BSA Troop 5164 member Sarah Dee tries shooting at Moses Scout Reservation Summer Camp this past summer.



Statewide student essay competition commemorates Mayflower anniversary

BOSTON — Four hundred years ago, the Mayflower landed on the shores of what would later be known as Massachusetts, forever changing the course of history of four nations: the U.S., England, the Netherlands and the Wampanoag.

American Ancestors — also known as New England Historic Genealogical Society — a national family history organization headquartered in Boston and one of the groups leading activities to commemorate the quadricentennial of the landing of the Mayflower, has announced a statewide student competition in Massachusetts to honor the story of the Pilgrims and of the native Wampanoag people. The 2020 American Ancestors Young Historians Essay Contest asks students to explore how this 400-year-old history relates to our national, familial and personal stories and identities.

Open to students currently enrolled in grades 5–12 in public, private and parochial schools, and those in home-study programs across the Bay State, the contest asks participants to address one of three topics: How is the story of the Mayflower still relevant today?; How does your family’s journey to America compare to the journey of the Pilgrims in 1620?; and as a native student, what does your tribal history mean to you?

American Ancestor’s Director of Education Ginevra Morse described the

statewide competition as an opportunity to honor the story of the Pilgrims and of the native Wampanoag people.

“Their stories, collectively and individually, embody the triumphs and tragedies of life in early New England and in the country itself. These stories are still relevant today,” Morse said.

“Involving some of the youngest minds in a process of reflection upon this historic event will lead to new insights and understanding for historians of all ages. We’re delighted to offer an opportunity for Massachusetts students to interpret and express the significance of the Mayflower voyage in their own words. We have no doubt that it will be revealing for many of us,” she added.

A panel of judges will announce winners of the 2020 American Ancestors Young Historians Essay Contest in early August. Cash prizes will be awarded to six winners; three winners will be selected from grades 5-8 and receive \$500 each and another three winners will be selected from grades 9-12 and receive \$750 each. All winners will be invited to present part of their essay at special events in Boston commemorating the Mayflower’s 400th year anniversary.

The deadline for essay submissions is June 10. Submission guidelines may be found at mayflower.americanancestors.org/essay-contest, the Mayflower companion website of American Ancestors.

Players audition for ‘James and the Giant Peach’

WILBRAHAM — Auditions for Wilbraham United Players production of “James and the Giant Peach,” the musical featuring a wickedly tuneful score by the Tony Award-nominated team of Pasek and Paul, are set to begin this weekend, by appointment.

Auditions will take place Sunday, Feb. 2 at 1 p.m., Monday, Feb. 3 at 6:30 p.m. and Wednesday, Feb. 5 at 6:30 p.m.

Those auditioning should prepare a short musical selection in the style of the show. Children auditioning for the role of James must have prepared a section of either “On Your Way Home” or “Middle of a Moment” — sheet music provided on request. A short dance sequence will be taught. Actors should dress for movement. In addition, some will be asked to read a selection from the script.

Roles are available for adults and

children 6-years-old and older. The Players are also interested in including youth and adults of many abilities as a part of the cast. There will be opportunities for mime and puppetry.

Performances will take place June 12, 13, 14 and June 19, 20, 21 at Thornton W. Burgess Middle School, 85 Wilbraham Road in Hampden.

Rehearsals begin the first week of March and will be held on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays. Rehearsals will be held at the Wilbraham United Church.

This production is in conjunction with the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District’s “One Book, One Community” program.

To book an appointment, visit the Players website wilbrahamunitedplayers.org, call 413-271-7291 or email wilbunitedplayers@gmail.com.

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